

# Annual Narrative Report

# 2014

*Moving forward despite a precarious existence:  
a strategy for 2013 – 2015*



# Contents

<i>Acronyms and Abbreviations</i> .....	3
<i>Glossary of terms</i> .....	3

## **Part I**                      *Report Summary*

General Information .....	3
Political Brief .....	4
Progress towards Planned Outcomes .....	11
Highlights of the Year .....	13
Challenges and Lessons Learned .....	16

## **Part II**                      *Detailed Activity Report*

Strategic Goal 1: <i>Contribute to the protection and empowerment of women suffering discrimination and violence</i> .....	17
Strategic Goal 2: <i>Promote women's rights and combat negative practices Against women</i> .....	35
Strategic Goal 3: <i>Develop institutional and human capacity in order to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of WCLAC</i> .....	47
<i>Appendices</i> .....	51

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

BDS	Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EUPOL	European Police
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
GBV	Gender-based violence
GUPW	General Union of Palestinian Women
HR/IHL	Human rights/International humanitarian law
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICHR	Independent Commission for Human Rights
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territories
PFLP	People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PLC	Palestinian Legislative Council
PNCG	Palestinian National Consensus Government
PNGO	Palestinian NGO Network
PPO	Public Prosecution Office
PWWS	Palestine Working Women's Society for Development
UPWC	Union of Palestinian Women's Committees
VAW	Violence Against Women
WAC	Women's Affairs Centre
WATC	Women's Affairs Technical Committee

## Glossary of terms

We have endeavoured to be consistent, choosing to transliterate key concepts for which there are no exact equivalents in English.

<i>nafaka</i>	In Islamic Sharia, a legal obligation of material support to be provided by the husband for the wife and children. In the event of divorce, the former husband must continue to support his wife for three months and his children until the time when the child can support her/himself or gets married. Similar to: <i>alimony</i>
<i>mahr</i>	In Islamic Sharia, a legal obligation on the part of the man to give the woman an agreed upon sum of money upon registration of the marriage. In the case of divorce, the man is expected to pay either all, half or none of the sum to the wife, depending on the circumstances of divorce. Similar to: <i>dowry</i>

## Part I

### Report Summary

#### General Information

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

Reporting period: 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014

Date of last report: 30 June 2014

Date of this report: 31 January 2015

## Political Brief

“... [T]he only thing that will deter a terrorist... is if they know that either their sister or mother will be raped if they are caught.” Dr. Mordechai Keidar, Israeli lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies, Bar Ilan University (July 1, 2014)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

For Palestine and Palestinian people, 2014 will no doubt be remembered as another watershed year in its history since the military occupation began in 1967. Israel waged war on Gaza, for the third time since 2008 (“Operation Cast Lead”, 2008-09; “Operation Pillar of Defence”, 2011; “Operation Protective Edge”, 2014) for 50 days, indiscriminately shelling homes, schools, hospitals, and ambulances, which guaranteed civilian casualties, destroying major water lines and the only power plant in Gaza. These actions resulted in 7 out of 10 casualties being civilian non-combatants, among them 495 children and 253 women,<sup>2</sup> and led to accusations of Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity.<sup>3</sup> The war further worsened the crisis due to the embargo imposed on Gaza since Hamas Party’s rise to power in 2007.

Palestine faced other significant setbacks during the past year. There was the breakdown and the “end of negotiations” of the US-brokered ‘peace talks’ after the US failed to halt settlement construction in the West Bank;<sup>4</sup> the imposition of debilitating economic sanctions by Israel on the PA;<sup>5</sup> the lengthiest collective hunger strike in the history of Palestinian political prisoners which ended without a single concrete outcome;<sup>6</sup> a mass arrest campaign against Palestinian youth;<sup>7</sup> the continued appropriation of Palestinian land for the expansion of Israeli settlements;<sup>8</sup> and the death of Ziad Abu Ein, Minister for the Commission Against the Annexation Wall and Settlement Activity, after he was assaulted by an Israeli soldier.

Finally, through June to November, Jerusalem was the site of almost daily demonstrations involving clashes between the Israeli authorities and Palestinian youth, considered by some as the “Third *Intifada*”. Increased incursions into the Al Aqsa Sanctuary (Temple Mount) by extremist Israeli settlers, protected by the Israeli army, also led to the arbitrary arrest and assault of Palestinian women worshippers by the Israeli authorities.<sup>9</sup> The cumulative effects of conditions described above have led to an increasingly deteriorating security situation in the OPT. This means that Palestinian women are among the hardest hit as they suffer disproportionately under these circumstances and bear the heaviest burden of maintaining the survival of the family and the community.

At the same time, Palestine has made a major step forward with the formal establishment of the Palestinian National Consensus Government (PNCG). Despite its tentative, perhaps even fragile start, and immense pressure from Israel, the PNCG has maintained itself. Moreover, in response to an Israeli decision not to honour the

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<sup>1</sup> Haidar Eid, “The Rape of Gaza,” *Marsad: The Palestinian Security Sector Observatory*, 31 July, 2014, <http://www.marsad.info/en/content/rape-gaza> (accessed December 8, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> By 15 October 2014, OCHA had recorded 2,205 Palestinian deaths, including 283 women. Over the same period 71 Israeli fatalities were recorded, of whom just 3% were civilians.

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch accuses Israel of war crimes in Gaza,’ *Reuters*, 11 September, 2014, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/11/us-mideast-gaza-war-idUSKBN0H60XZ20140911> (accessed December 10, 2014).

<sup>4</sup> ‘Palestinian leader: Going to the ICC means the end of negotiations,’ *Middle East Monitor*, 14 January, 2015, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/16355-palestinian-leader-going-to-the-icc-means-the-end-of-negotiations> (accessed January 14, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> ‘Israel imposes tax sanctions on Palestinian Authority,’ *BBC News Middle East*, 11 April, 2014, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26982166> (accessed December 10, 2014).

<sup>6</sup> Prisoners were striking to end the practice of administrative detention, an Israeli policy of detaining Palestinians without charge, trial or sentence for indefinitely renewable 6-month periods. The sweeping practice of administrative detention by an occupying power goes against standards of international law which allows for its use for “imperative reasons of security” only.

<sup>7</sup> ‘6059 Palestinians arrested in 2014 by Israeli forces, including 1266 children,’ *Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network*, 30 December, 2014, <http://samidoun.ca/2014/12/6059-palestinians-arrested-in-2014-by-israeli-forces-including-1266-children/> (accessed January 12, 2015).

<sup>8</sup> ‘Israel confiscates 1,000 acres of Palestinian land south of Bethlehem,’ *Ma’an News Agency*, 31 August, 2015, <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=724424> (accessed December 11, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> Testimonies of violence against women by the Israeli authorities during Al Aqsa incursions can be found on our website under ‘Women’s Voices’: <http://www.wclac.org/english/etemplate.php?id=1413>.

prisoner exchange on which resumption of peace negotiations was premised,<sup>10</sup> Palestine became a signatory to 18 international treaties and 4 optional protocols. The most notable of these, for the work of WLCAC, is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Internationally, some progress also has been made. In line with the UN International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Sweden became the first Western European country to recognize formally the State of Palestine whilst British, Irish, French, and Spanish parliaments have approved a non-binding motion for the future recognition of Palestine as an independent state. The European Parliament has also adopted a resolution that supports Palestinian statehood in principle. Although recognition of the State of Palestine remains a symbolic gesture rather than yielding tangible results for the Palestinian people, it nonetheless increases the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause internationally and sends a clear indication of the renewed urgency surrounding the issue of a final status resolution between Palestine and Israel. Moreover, the international BDS movement has continued to gain ground with the American Presbyterian Church voting to divest \$21m from Israel.

### **Palestinian Women: Facing Double Jeopardy**

As mentioned above, Palestinian women, similar to all women living in militarised conflict zones, bear the heaviest burdens of sustaining life in the OPT. The cumulative effects of these incidents, which has led to a deteriorating security situation in the OPT, means that Palestinian women are among the hardest hit as they suffer the double-edged discrimination of ethno-religious identity and gender in the context of military occupation. See for example, the story of Laila, a 60 year old widow from East Jerusalem who was attacked by soldiers while protesting her right to pray in Al Aqsa in an all-female demonstration: <http://www.wclac.org/english/etemplate.php?id=1410>.

### **Human Security: Framework for Analysis**

Meaningful, creative, and effective interventions that address seemingly intractable challenges in the OPT are needed. Creating those requires an analytical framework that can account for both political realities that affect all Palestinian people, such as the Israeli occupation and a fairly fragile unity government, and internal dynamics, like religion and culture, which specifically marginalise and oppress women and girls. Using the framework of human security, we delineate key challenges confronting Palestinian people and Palestinian women specifically.

*Women are entitled to the equal enjoyment and protection of all **human** rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field. These rights include, inter alia, **the right to life**.*<sup>11</sup>

Human security—the concept and discourse—emerged as a result of the work and thinking by civil society groups, social movements, and marginalized groups, especially women, who were excluded from “national security” debates around the world. It refers to the right to be free, or be protected, from harms that threaten the overall wellbeing and dignity of human beings and the sustainability of the environment. These harms include violence of all forms (the most immediate indicator of insecurity at the individual and national levels); lack of basic survival needs and education, absence of sustainable livelihood, the denial the right to life and other inalienable rights such as dignity and freedom. In short, human security encompasses psychological, social, economic, and political aspects of the life of individuals, communities, and nations.<sup>12</sup>

Here we take several elements of the human security paradigm to analyse more closely the state of human security for Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territories through a gender-sensitive lens. In its most basic form, human security requires "**freedom from violence and freedom from the fear of violence**".<sup>13</sup> In this sense,

<sup>10</sup> Dalia Hatuqa, 'Paradigm Shift: Palestinians join treaties,' *Al Jazeera*, 22 April, 2014, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/04/shift-palestinians-join-treaties-2014418111950813313.html> (accessed December 8, 2014).

<sup>11</sup> The right to life is enshrined within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 3) and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (article 3).

<sup>12</sup> As denoted in the groundbreaking UNDP report on human security, 'UNDP Human Development Report', published in 1994.

<sup>13</sup> 'Human Security Backgrounder,' *Human Security Report Project*, <http://www.hsrgroup.org/press-room/human-security-backgrounder.aspx> (accessed December 5, 2014).

Palestinians' human security is perpetually and increasingly threatened in the OPT where Israeli military law and policies of occupation continue undeterred. According to UNOCHA as of 29 December 2014, the number of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces in the West Bank stood at 49 as compared to 27 in 2013, indicating over a two-fold increase in the rate of Palestinian fatalities by Israeli forces in the last year. Likewise in the Gaza Strip, the frequency of fatalities increased dramatically from 10 in 2013 to 2,286 in 2014,<sup>14</sup> a result of the belligerent strategy Israel routinely refers to as "mowing the grass".<sup>15</sup>

Whilst the immediate consequences of the summer hostilities affected the people in Gaza as a whole, the war produced many gender-specific effects. One example pertains to women's reproductive health. The rates of childbirth complications spiked due to malnutrition and hormonal changes triggered by the stress of war and exacerbated by the deliberate shelling of hospitals and primary healthcare facilities including ambulances.<sup>16</sup> Many women were forced to give birth in dangerous conditions with missiles from the air, land and sea going off around them.<sup>17</sup> A total of 40,000 pregnant women were forced to go without reproductive health care for 50 days. As a consequence, neonatal fatality reportedly doubled at Al Shifa hospital.<sup>18</sup> Another example concerns basic survival needs. The UN shelters that were *intended* to protect civilians forcibly displaced from their homes, primarily women and children, lacked food and basic services. With their homes completely destroyed, many women and children remain in shelters today. Women's living-conditions were, and continue to be, near unbearable with "increased evidence of GBV, limited privacy, compromised dignity, and reduced access to hygiene."<sup>19</sup>

The unprecedented scale of human and material destruction combined with an increasingly virulent rhetoric<sup>20</sup> aimed at dehumanising and demonising the Palestinian people, at both the official and popular levels in Israel, suggests that unarmed civilians, particularly children,<sup>21</sup> were the intended victims of a deliberate and premeditated policy<sup>22</sup> to destroy the popular base of the Palestinian armed resistance. The trend of dehumanising Palestinians prior to and during the 2014 conflict was described by Israeli and international observers alike as "incitement to genocide,"<sup>23</sup> a crime under international law.

*"What's so horrifying about understanding that the entire Palestinian people is the enemy...including its elderly and its women, its cities and its villages, its property and its infrastructure...this also includes the mothers of the martyrs...Otherwise, more little snakes will be raised there. "* Ayelet Shaked, Likud Party Member of Knesset (July 1, 2014)<sup>24</sup>

Whilst settler violence resulting in Palestinian casualties and property damage decreased slightly in 2014, for the first time since 2006<sup>25</sup> with a total of 329 reported cases (down 18% from 2013),<sup>26</sup> the severity of incidents increased dramatically. For example on 23 November, a group of settlers broke into the house of a 54-year-old Palestinian woman near Ramallah, setting fire to her conservatory after launching stun grenades and tear gas

<sup>14</sup> 'UNOCHA Protection of Civilians Weekly Report (23-29 December, 2014),' *UNOCHA*, 2 January, 2015,

[http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_protection\\_of\\_civilians\\_weekly\\_report\\_2014\\_01\\_02\\_english.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_protection_of_civilians_weekly_report_2014_01_02_english.pdf) (accessed January 2, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> Daniel Byman, 'Mowing the Grass and Taking Out the Trash,' *Foreign Policy*, 25 August, 2014, <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/08/25/mowing-the-grass-and-taking-out-the-trash/> (accessed December 20, 2014).

<sup>16</sup> 'Mounting evidence of deliberate attacks on Gaza health workers by Israeli army,' *Amnesty International*, 7 August, 2014,

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/mounting-evidence-deliberate-attacks-gaza-health-workers-israeli-army-2014-08-07> (accessed December 13, 2014).

<sup>17</sup> Mohammed Omer, 'New life is born amid Gaza destruction,' 14 August, 2014, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/08/new-life-born-amid-gaza-destruction-201481312314119931.html> (accessed December 16, 2014).

<sup>18</sup> 'Gaza Initial Rapid Assessment,' 27 August, 2014, [http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/gaza\\_mira\\_report\\_9september.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/gaza_mira_report_9september.pdf) (accessed January 22, 2015).

<sup>19</sup> As above.

<sup>20</sup> For more information on genocide-inciting rhetoric, see David Sheen's presentation at the German parliament:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GbKsAvuBDM> (accessed December 12, 2014).

<sup>21</sup> Jon Snow, 'Gaza: Is this a war on children?', *Snowblog*, Channel 4, 23 July, 2014, <http://blogs.channel4.com/snowblog/watch-channel-4-news-live-gaza/24260> (accessed December 12, 2014).

<sup>22</sup> Deputy Speaker of the Knesset Moshe Feiglin, called for the "extermination" of all members of the Palestinian armed resistance "*and their supporters*" on his social network profile on August 1, 2014.

<sup>23</sup> 'Russell Tribunal finds evidence of incitement to genocide, crimes against humanity in Gaza,' *Mondoweiss*, 25 September, 2014,

<http://mondoweiss.net/2014/09/incitement-genocide-humanity> (accessed December 13, 2014).

<sup>24</sup> Ali Abunimeh, 'Israeli lawmaker's call for genocide of Palestinians gets thousands of Facebook likes,' *The Electronic Intifada*, 7 July, 2014,

<http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/israeli-lawmakers-call-genocide-palestinians-gets-thousands-facebook-likes> (accessed November 29, 2014).

<sup>25</sup> 115 incidents of settler violence were recorded in 2006 as compared to 399 cases in 2013.

<sup>26</sup> As above (13)

canisters and writing ethno-religious hate speech on the property walls.<sup>27</sup> Marking the first time for settlers to use stun grenades and tear gas against Palestinian civilians in their own homes, this incident set a new precedent for the criminal activities of Israeli settlers in the OPT where Palestinians' right to live in "freedom from violence and freedom from the fear of violence" is reduced to a distant dream.

## Political Security

*Political security is the defense against any form of political oppression. It is concerned with whether people live in a society that honors their basic human rights.*<sup>28</sup>

On 23 April 2014 the Fatah– Hamas Gaza Agreement was signed in Gaza. The leaders officially presented their plan to form a national consensus government, which would comprise independents as well as Fatah and Hamas parties' members, with a timeline for formation and elections. This meant that the government would be formed within five weeks from date of signing the agreement and ahead of the elections to be held within six months. These deadlines, however, were established before the July–August onslaught in Gaza began - less than a week after Hamas formally stepped down from power in Gaza on 2 June.<sup>29</sup> Yet, despite the immense hardships, a formal transition of power was achieved on 25 September, following two days of talks held in Cairo, and the first official meeting of the PNCG was held on 9 October in Gaza City.

The PNCG meeting marked the first time that Hamas and Fatah officials had met as a united front since mid-2007. This long-awaited political reconciliation was warmly welcomed by WCLAC and other women's rights organisations that had advocated tirelessly for unification. At WCLAC, we see the formation of the PNCG as a turning point for women in Palestine and Palestinian society as a whole. A unified central governing body is the necessary foundation for developing a coherent, inclusive, and representative governing system; an imperative for any kind of meaningful and sustainable judicial reform in Palestine.

*“Oslo is finished and there are no two states for two peoples. There is only one state for one nation.”* Moshe Feiglin, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset and Likud Party Member, Times of Israel (August 5, 2014)<sup>30</sup>

Predictably, whilst support for political reconciliation from Palestinian feminist and women's rights organisations abounded, women's representation in the reconciliation process itself was dire, with a near-total absence of women from the mainstream dialogue and negotiations. Neither the Islamist parties nor their more secular counterparts invited women to any of the reconciliation meetings or the treaty conference held in Gaza on 23 April.<sup>31</sup> This was despite the fact that in December 2012 both Hamas and Fatah had signed a memorandum of understanding to integrate women in the reconciliation negotiations;<sup>32</sup> that women were demonstrating outside the meetings in support of unification, and that UNSCR 1325 has been a feature of Palestinian women's organising.<sup>33</sup> However whilst there was no official presence of women in the talks, 13 Palestinian political parties, including the ruling Fatah, signed a pledge in 2014 to increase women's senior-level participation to 30% by the time of the next party conference. WCLAC, in partnership with GUPW, is leading advocacy efforts to ensure that the goal is met, understanding the quota as the necessary an intermediary measure toward the eventual goal of equal political participation.

<sup>27</sup> 'Israeli Attacks Continue against Palestinian Civilians in the West Bank,' *Palestinian Centre for Human Rights*, 24 November, 2014, [http://www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=10738:israeli-settlers-continue-their-attacks-against-palestinian-civilians-in-the-west-bank&catid=145:in-focus](http://www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10738:israeli-settlers-continue-their-attacks-against-palestinian-civilians-in-the-west-bank&catid=145:in-focus) (accessed December 22, 2015).

<sup>28</sup> 'Political Law & Legal Definition,' *US Legal*, <http://definitions.uslegal.com/p/political-security%20/> (accessed January 8, 2015).

<sup>29</sup> 'Hamas, Fatah agree on return of unity government in Gaza,' *reliefweb*, 25 September, 2014, <http://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hamas-fatah-agree-return-unity-government-gaza> (accessed January 12, 2015).

<sup>30</sup> 'Israeli Government Allows Extremist Settler and Likud MK Moshe Feiglin to Invade Al Aqsa Compound,' *State of Palestine, Palestine Liberation Organisation Negotiations Affairs Departments*, October 13, 2014, [http://nad-plo.org/userfiles/file/media%20brief/Israeli\\_Government\\_Allows\\_Extremist\\_Settler.pdf](http://nad-plo.org/userfiles/file/media%20brief/Israeli_Government_Allows_Extremist_Settler.pdf) (accessed December 16, 2014).

<sup>31</sup> 'Women shut out from Fatah-Hamas reconciliation deal,' *Al Monitor*, 13 March, 2014, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/06/palestine-reconciliation-deal-women-absence.html#ixzz3K3xKB9sC> (accessed November 25, 2015).

<sup>32</sup> As above.

<sup>33</sup> As above.



In the area of political security, Israel's policies mean that what little progress is made on moving the women's rights agenda in the OPT is swiftly undermined. During the summer mass-arrest campaign, numerous members of the various political parties were arrested, or rearrested, and placed in administrative detention without charge or trial.<sup>34</sup> One of them was Khalida Jarar, a prominent feminist, senior member of PFLP, and PLC member, who was handed an expulsion order. Moreover, as of 1 October, 28 members of the PLC were incarcerated in Israeli military prisons.<sup>35</sup> Distinguished Palestinian human rights lawyer, Shireen Issawi, (winner of the 2014 Geneva-based Al Karama Award for Human Rights Defenders in the Arab World) accused of supporting terrorism by Israel, has been held in solitary confinement under administrative detention since early April 2014.<sup>36</sup> Moreover, women's experiences during the reunification talks between Fatah and Hamas have shown us, again, that the women's movement and women's rights activists must be vigilant and demand more accountability from our leaders, developing mechanisms that would ensure it. As has been demonstrated above, ensuring political security in Palestine and freedom from political repression as is Palestinians' right under international law,<sup>37</sup> as well as normalizing and institutionalising gender equality and women's rights, is perpetually compromised by the prolonged Israeli occupation.

## Economic Security

*Economic security is composed of basic social security, defined by access to basic needs infrastructure pertaining to health, education, dwelling, information, and social protection, as well as work-related security.*<sup>38</sup>

As an occupied territory and quasi-state,<sup>39</sup> Palestine does not possess the necessary capability and authority to provide its citizens adequate protection of any kind. However, under international law, the occupying power is obligated to work for the protection and welfare of the occupied people, not the occupied or foreign governments. Quite contrary to their legal obligation to protect, Israeli military and political strategies, particularly through the Israeli-conceived 'Dahiya Doctrine',<sup>40</sup> deliberately target the basic needs infrastructure of Palestinian society throughout the OPT. The targeting of such infrastructure includes demolition of houses and other structures, control of roads and flow of goods and services, water and sanitation, with specific impacts and consequences for women.

### Home Demolitions

In November 2014 alone, Israeli authorities demolished 48 Palestinian-owned structures throughout the West Bank including East Jerusalem, with the number of people displaced in 2014 in the West Bank totaling almost 1,200, the highest number since 2008.<sup>41</sup> In Gaza, approximately 18,000 housing units were destroyed and over 500,000 children, women, and men were recorded as displaced at the height of the summer hostilities.<sup>42</sup> House demolitions are experienced as highly traumatic events for the entire family and especially for women, who traditionally bear the primary responsibility for the physical and emotional care of children, elders, and others who need it. Take for example the story of Nawafa, 59, who lives with her husband and children in East Jerusalem. Their home, which has been in the family since before 1967, was demolished without any official warning: "Now

<sup>34</sup> 'PFLP: Political arrests in the West Bank, a stab-in-the-back,' *The Palestine Information Centre*, 8 December, 2014, <http://english.palinfo.com/site/pages/details.aspx?itemid=69035> (accessed January 12, 2014).

<sup>35</sup> 'Addameer Monthly Detention Report – 1 October 2014,' *Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association*, <http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=729> (January 11, 2015).

<sup>36</sup> Richard Falk, 'Human Rights Award to Shireen Issawi,' *Global Justice in the 21 Century*, 18 December, 2014, <http://richardfalk.wordpress.com/2014/12/18/human-rights-award-to-shireen-issawi/> (accessed January 11, 2014).

<sup>37</sup> A people fighting illegal occupation have the legal right to resist that occupation with recourse to "all necessary means at their disposal" according to numerous UN resolutions: (2107 (XX) of 1965; 2270 (XXII) of 1967; 2707 (XXV) of 1970; 3113 (XXVIII) of 1973).

<sup>38</sup> 'Definitions: What we mean when we say "economic security",' *ILO Socio-Economic Security Programme*, <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/ses/download/docs/definition.pdf> (accessed January 6, 2015).

<sup>39</sup> 'Access Denied: Palestinian Women's Access to Justice in the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territory,' March 2014, UN Women Research report, p. 51.

<sup>40</sup> For references to the doctrine by Maj. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot see Wikileaks: [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/08TELAVIV2329\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/08TELAVIV2329_a.html).

<sup>41</sup> 'Humanitarian Bulletin Monthly Report - November 2004,' *UNOCHA*, 24 December, 2014, [http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha\\_opt\\_the\\_humanitarian\\_monitor\\_2014\\_12\\_24\\_english.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_the_humanitarian_monitor_2014_12_24_english.pdf) (accessed 11 January, 2015).

<sup>42</sup> 'Gaza Crisis - Facts and Figures,' *UNOCHA*, 15 October, 2014, <http://www.ochaopt.org/content.aspx?id=1010361> (accessed January 11, 2015).



every time I look at my grandchildren I feel very sad for what they had to put up with at this very young age”.<sup>43</sup> The trauma of losing the family home was further compounded for many women in Gaza whose spouses and other family members were killed and who now shoulder the entire burden of ensuring the welfare of remaining family, possibly including elderly and injured persons, and the upbringing of their children.

Another insidious move by the Israeli authorities which continued throughout 2014 is the removal of Bedouin people from villages in the Jordan Valley, South Hebron Hills, and areas around the illegal settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. The villagers are primarily shepherders who rely on the land for their livelihoods. In the South Hebron Hills, about 1,000 people - half of whom are children - face being expelled from their homes and the destruction of their villages. According to B'Tselem, “The Israeli authorities' conduct in this regard (demolitions and removals) is motivated by an ambition publicly stated by various officials on a number of occasions. They aim to take over these areas so as to generate conditions that would facilitate their annexation to Israel as part of a final status arrangement, and until that time, annex them de-facto.”<sup>44</sup> Finally, several incidents of 'punitive demolitions' were also witnessed this year as part of a policy of collective punishment, a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. In addition to the destruction in the OPT, Prime Minister Netanyahu gave unprecedented powers to state authorities to demolish the houses of 'dissenting' Palestinian citizens of Israel (so-called 'Arab-Israelis') and threatened to revoke their citizenship.<sup>45</sup>

### *Water Shortage*

Water shortage negatively affects the economic security of Palestinian people. Its allocation and distribution are effectively controlled by Israel in its favor, a control that was institutionalized in the Oslo Accords.<sup>46</sup> Comparing Israeli and Palestinian consumption is also illuminating. Israeli individuals consume 183L per day compared to 73L for West Bank individuals connected to the water grid, 20-50L for West Bankers not connected to the water grid who rely on rainwater and water trucks, and 70-90L in Gaza. The World Health organization recommends at least 100L per day.<sup>47</sup> In Gaza, the problem also concerns water quality. Before the summer offensive, 90% of water was deemed unfit for human consumption by UNRWA.<sup>48</sup> The problem was exacerbated beyond imagination after Israeli bombardment of a major water line supplying tens of thousands of refugees, in addition to wells and sewage facilities.<sup>49</sup> Similarly, extreme water shortages for domestic and livestock use caused by Israeli restrictions were reported as a major protection threat in the West Bank (Area C).<sup>50</sup>

The problem of water shortage can be traced to lack of adequate infrastructure and Israeli occupation policies:

*“(Poor infrastructure) brings about extensive leakage and widespread water theft resulting in the loss of about one third of the West Bank’s supply. The problem is particularly pronounced in Tul Karm District, where some 36% of the water does not reach consumers because of leakage along the pipelines. Upgrades to infrastructure depend on foreign aid and Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in Area C. The work also depends on obtaining Israeli authorization in the joint water committee and getting the relevant permits from the Civil Administration. Israel imposes obstacles in the way of the permits, making Palestinian agreement to the implementation of projects in Israeli settlements a prerequisite.”<sup>51</sup>*

<sup>43</sup> For the full story, see: <http://www.wclac.org/english/etemplate.php?id=1412>

<sup>44</sup> B'Tselem, “Thousands of Palestinians in Area C face the threat of expulsion from their home,” 23 October 2013 [http://www.btselem.org/area\\_c/expulsions\\_of\\_communities](http://www.btselem.org/area_c/expulsions_of_communities) (accessed January 28, 2015).

<sup>45</sup> 'In Netanyahu's eyes, Israeli Arab citizenship is conditional on behaviour,' *Haaretz*, 12 November, 2014, <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.625979> (accessed January 10, 2015).

<sup>46</sup> B'Tselem, “Water Crisis – Discriminatory water supply” 10 March 2014, [http://www.btselem.org/water/discrimination\\_in\\_water\\_supply](http://www.btselem.org/water/discrimination_in_water_supply) (accessed January 28, 2015).

<sup>47</sup> B'Tselem, Background: Water crisis, <http://www.btselem.org/water>, 25 February 2014 (accessed January 28, 2015).

<sup>48</sup> Mads Gilbert, 'Brief report to UNRWA: The Gaza Health Sector as of June 2014,' *UNRWA*, 3 July, 2014,

[http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/final\\_report\\_-\\_gaza\\_health\\_sector\\_june-july\\_2014\\_-\\_mads\\_gilbert\\_2.pdf](http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/final_report_-_gaza_health_sector_june-july_2014_-_mads_gilbert_2.pdf), p.3, (accessed November 20, 2014).

<sup>49</sup> Muna Dajani, 'Drying Palestine: Israel's Systematic Water War,' 4 September, 2014, al shabaka policy brief, *Al Shabaka*, <http://al-shabaka.org/policy-brief/politics/drying-palestine-israel%E2%80%99s-systemic-water-war?page=2> (accessed January 10, 2015).

<sup>50</sup> Rafael Equiguren & Luna Saadeh, 'Protection in the occupied Palestinian territories,' *Local to Global Protection*, October 2014, [http://www.local2global.info/wp-content/uploads/oPt\\_full\\_study\\_final.pdf.p.7](http://www.local2global.info/wp-content/uploads/oPt_full_study_final.pdf.p.7) (accessed January 10, 2015).

<sup>51</sup> B'Tselem, Background: Water Crisis, <http://www.btselem.org/water>, 25 February 2014 (accessed 28 January 2015).

Water shortages affect women in distinct ways in Palestine, as in many other parts of the world. When there are shortages, female family members expend more time and energy performing water-consuming household activities such as clothes and dish-washing, bathing children, and because part of the work involves finding and conserving what little water there is. The lack of water also directly affects sanitation and hygiene. Rural areas are affected uniquely. As farming becomes more difficult due to water restrictions, an increasing number of women from rural areas (typically the Jordan Valley) are forced to migrate to urban areas in search of jobs, which are often unsecure and poorly paid.

*"The plight of rural women is particularly worrying as women leave agricultural/pastoral livelihoods and enter the informal sector, risking abuse during travel and/or at the workplace. Given inadequate and unsafe transportation, rural women often accompany daughters to school and this adds to their already significant workload. Some families eventually decide to remove their female children from education when they reach secondary school."<sup>52</sup>*

#### *Control of Roads and Movement*

Dramatic markers of the Israeli occupation are the Apartheid Wall, referred by the Israelis as the “security fence,” and an intricate system of roads and checkpoint throughout the OPT that impede people’s mobility and affect the flow of goods and services. Simply put, performing daily routines, such as going to work and school, taking sick family members to hospital, transporting Palestinian-produced agricultural and manufactured goods to markets, can and often does become a major ordeal that involves delays, disruptions, altercations with Israeli forces and sometime even with other Palestinians out of sheer frustration. For women and girls, these impediments mean, for example, girls having to stop attending school for fear of facing settler/soldier violence en route and women having to give birth at checkpoints. WCLAC believes that foundational to the notion of human security are ensuring survival, meeting basic needs by protecting people’s livelihood and safeguarding the human dignity of the most vulnerable groups in society. Attached to these at the centre are the interrelated goals of protection and empowerment.

#### **Conclusion: “Positive Freedom” and Women**

Although the newly formed PNCG is a major step forward in Palestinian politics and a small amount of progress on the issue of Palestinian statehood has been made in the international arena, 2014 was marked by the increased entrenchment of the Israeli occupation and a worsening of the politically-induced humanitarian crisis in the OPT, particularly in Gaza. As mentioned before, according to international law Israel, as the occupying power, is obligated to protect and ensure the welfare of Palestinian people, but as has been demonstrated here, the reality is quite the opposite. Similarly, regarding women's rights, less than desirable progress was made this past year. The entrenchment of the occupation and erosion of confidence in national leadership have resulted in reversion to the idea among the political leaders and society at large that ensuring women's rights is secondary to national liberation. Perhaps the clearest evidence of this is that not a single woman politician, or otherwise, was present inside the negotiation room during the unification talks between Fatah and Hamas. This is a stark reminder of the long journey ahead on the path to equal political, social, economic and cultural rights for women in Palestine, and a clear indication of the ingrained systemic obstacles to women's participation at the executive level of Palestinian political life.

We end this discussion on the socio-political background of WCLAC's work with the following quote from our latest publication, *Palestinian Model Parliament -- Towards Legislation Based on Palestinian Identity, Progressive Ideals, and Just Content*, that suggests a way forward:

*“Living under such conditions of perpetual conflict and facing systematic threats to personal and collective security, women and human rights organizations must utilise creative strategies to ensure the healthy survival of the local community through sustainable development—economic, social, political, and ecological—and continue the protracted struggle for freedom from Israeli occupation and for what internationally renowned development scholar Amartya Sen terms “substantial*

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<sup>52</sup> As before.

freedom." According to Sen, substantial freedom "enhanc[es] the lives we lead and the freedoms we enjoy...expanding the freedoms we have reason to value," so all people will live "richer and more unfettered" lives and become "fuller social persons, exercising our own volitions [capacities for deliberate choice] and interacting with—and influencing—the world in which we live."<sup>53</sup> From Sen's perspective, positive freedom is "intrinsically important as the preeminent objective of development."<sup>54</sup> In the case of Palestinian people, the foremost positive freedoms are genuine security and fulfillment of all basic material needs, as well as human dignity. For Palestinian women and girls living in a conservative, patriarchal culture and society, positive freedoms include opportunities to develop fully as capable, empowered human beings, and to participate meaningfully in civic life."

## Progress towards Planned Outcomes

The year 2014 saw in the second of WCLAC's three-year strategic plan, *Moving Forward despite a Precarious Existence*. Here we take each of WCLAC's strategic goals in turn to highlight progress made towards the planned outcomes during the reporting period which in turn give an indication of progress made towards our 3-year strategic goals.

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

In 2014 WCLAC continued to invest in the professional and personal development of the service unit staff and volunteers, such that through over 300 hours of supervision and training WCLAC's service unit was able to provide quality socio-legal counselling and protection services to a growing number of women suffering or at risk of gender-based violence and discrimination, whose lives may be under threat. Most notably, the Centre increased its capacity to provide emergency protection by 42% on the previous year, with 51 women receiving emergency protection. Service unit staff was likewise encouraged to build their intellectual capacity through brief analysis papers examining trends related to the situation of women in Palestine, based on WCLAC's clientele database. WCLAC contributed to the empowerment of all women who came into contact with the Centre through informing them of their legal, social, political and cultural rights. As such, 85% of clients reported an increased awareness of their rights following socio-legal consultations with WCLAC's lawyers and social workers. This increased awareness among at-risk women strengthens women's resilience to gender-based discrimination and violence, offering practical mechanisms and strategies to address and overcome the effects of violence, and to prevent it where possible. Significantly for WCLAC's strategic goal 1, a legal precedent was gained through litigation whereby Palestinian women's right to *nafaka* or maintenance following divorce was protected.

Through continuous training and supervision with 3 grassroots organisations, WCLAC was able to extend service provision to underserved parts of Palestine through improving the quality of socio-legal services provided by grassroots partners in their constituencies. WCLAC expanded into 2 new locations in Area C and the seam zone, bringing socio-legal services to some of the hardest to reach and most in need communities in the West Bank. Feedback from some 487 housewives following awareness raising sessions highlighted a better understanding of women's human rights, an enhanced ability to identify types of violence, and an updated knowledge of service providers available to them. This improved knowledge surrounding issues affecting women increases the ability of women identified as at-risk to identify and condemn negative practices against women. This, in turn, increases the likelihood that they will seek and/or encourage others to seek help and support when faced with gender-based violence, discrimination or rights violations.

Meanwhile, feedback from awareness raising sessions with key target groups identified as change agents (students, young men, media professionals etc.) revealed a significant change in attitude regarding women's rights issues, though persisting stereotypes were noted. Similarly, WCLAC's accelerated training efforts for state and non-state service providers in order to strengthen best practices in dealing with women victims of violence yielded promising results with a reported 60% increase in knowledge surrounding the use and functions of the national

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<sup>53</sup> Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*. New York: Random House, 1999, pp. 14-15.

<sup>54</sup> As before. p. 37

referral system. This will aid with more efficient referral of women victims of violence in the West Bank and help related authorities to better prioritise the level of threat to women's lives so that WCLAC can continue to prioritise women whose lives are most at risk.

**Strategic goal 2:** *Promote women's rights and combat negative practices against women*

Since the inception of WCLAC's 3-year strategic plan, the Centre has made significant progress on the development of gender-sensitive legislation and institutional policies that support, protect and empower women in the public and private spheres. In 2014, this culminated in the amendment of article 98 of the Jordanian Criminal Law with the impact of decreasing the likelihood that perpetrators of femicide receive lenient sentences. Meanwhile work on the draft law, *Family Protection from Violence*, has gained ground with the formation of a governmental drafting committee to finalise the law which was put forward to the Cabinet by WCLAC and MoJ for consideration in late 2013. Results from our awareness and advocacy work on the need to amend discriminatory legislation indicate a gradual shift in attitudes towards equal access to key social security entitlements, irrespective of gender, disability and other distinguishing factors. This is evidenced by the growing number of women seeking support from WCLAC to claim their rights and the increasing number of volunteers WCLAC is attracting, as well as a spark in activities promoting women's political, cultural and social rights by independent groups such as university students. Likewise the mobilisation of advocates of gender-sensitive legislative reform through activities highlighting the need to reform gender-discriminatory practices regarding disability entitlements and banking and inheritance rights, contributes to the passage of draft legislation that protects women's rights. For example, WCLAC's work with Sharia law officials to propose articles to the inheritance law that guarantee women's right to inheritance is on target.

Of significance to WCLAC's goal to identify inadequacies within the judicial system related to cases of femicide and incest, was the realisation in 2014 that most cases of incest do not enter the judicial system - formal or customary - due to the insidious pattern of abuse and to restrictions on movement and lack of access to information and support for victims of incest. Work is underway to formulate a methodology to overcome some of these obstacles to help victims of incest seek reparation. WCLAC furthered its aim to mobilise support for a culture of respect for women's rights with its incorporation into 2 new coalitions focused on media during 2014. This will help to ensure that the image of women and femicide in the media features on the agenda of top national media outlets. Thus WCLAC's membership grew to 18 local, regional and international coalitions, helping to keep women's rights issues in Palestine on the agenda of numerous national and international organisations.

WCLAC's active team of young graduate volunteers welcomed 20 new volunteers in 2014 owing to recommendations of past and present volunteers. Volunteer leaders were identified and trained to mentor new volunteers and lead the development of regional volunteer clusters to pioneer innovative advocacy tools within their local communities. This resulted in the extension of WCLAC's reach to 1,900 members of marginalised communities through volunteer-led community activities publicising women's rights issues. Similarly, WCLAC experienced a surge in documentation of Israeli soldiers' and settlers' violations of Palestinian women's human rights as local human rights activists, provided with on-the-job by WCLAC's fieldwork professionals, documented double the number of testimonies recorded over the same period in the previous reporting year. Testimonials from the war in Gaza were later submitted to the UN Commission of Inquiry on the war in Gaza to highlight the gender-specific impact of the devastating military offensive on Palestine's women.

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

As part of the Centre's organisational development strategy, WCLAC seeks to develop its policies, procedures and practices in order to enhance the efficiency of its internal operations. To this end, a full review of the Centre's incentives policy was conducted in 2014 and the development and institutionalisation of a complaint mechanism based on a newly formulated accountability framework was initiated. In an effort to enhance WCLAC's programmes and information management systems, the service unit procedures manual was reviewed and developed by unit staff members to clarify and develop protocols for information management. Recommendations

to make this system more user-friendly and to ensure that all information is entered in accordance with specified procedures were put forward and efforts are underway to submit these recommended changes to the external server. Also in 2014, staff began to develop a manual containing procedures for the documentation, archiving and removal of hard copy files of clients from previous years, to be piloted pending final approval in 2015.

WCLAC's commitment to the development of all staff members was put into practice during 2 staff retreats in 2014 with a concluding retreat planned for March 2015. In the first team-building retreat, themes requiring attention to improve WCLAC's working environment were defined and working groups were formed to address these themes during the second retreat. A methodology to work on the established themes will be designed during the concluding retreat so as to ensure the sustainability of staff interventions. These retreats likewise provided a platform for developing staff's critical thinking around the women's rights discourse, facilitated as they were by a professor in gender and ethnicity studies. Further, staff from all of WCLAC's branches participated in a 2-day training on respectful confrontation to gain skills in mediation and conflict prevention to be put to use with colleagues and clients alike.

In light of WCLAC's strategic programming, evaluation of the present action plan and preparations for the next strategic plan (2016-2020) have begun through a rapid assessment of the current strategy via an online survey to collect information from staff, trustees, clients, stakeholders and partners. This information will serve as a baseline for our new strategic plan. Finally, WCLAC continues to improve its financial sustainability by hiring out its conference room and workshop/accommodation spaces in its Bethlehem facilities, as well as by diversifying its income sources through partnerships with local Palestinian businesses and developing international funding consortiums.

## **Highlights of the Year**

### *Major court decisions/legal precedents*

In 2014, the service unit documented the release of several judgments constituting negative legal precedents which present a threat to Palestinian women's ability to claim their rights. For example, the right to *nafaka* following divorce is a very common case and typically a favourable verdict for the woman is obtained without difficulty in Sharia courts. However, this year WCLAC documented a case in which the verdict was concluded in favour of the husband; since the husband held Jordanian citizenship, the case was transferred to undergo the laws of a foreign court. WCLAC selected this case for litigation and appealed the verdict at the Supreme Court. WCLAC lawyers argued that the citizenship of the woman's spouse was being used to deny her the right to claim *nafaka* and won the case. Had this case not been selected by WCLAC for litigation, the ruling would have had a direct negative impact on Palestinian women living in Palestine and married to someone considered "foreign". When arguing similar cases, WCLAC can now refer to this precedent to give weight to an argument in the woman's favour.

### *Service Provisions: 2 new services launched in 2014*

Over the reporting period a total of 1,062 women received legal aid and social counselling through WCLAC's service unit: 462 received long-term direct social and legal counselling; 120 received legal counselling, 76 received social counselling and 266 received joint social and legal counselling. Additionally, 370 women were supported through one-time direct socio-legal counselling consultations, 13 received e-counselling services and 217 received emergency helpline services. In an effort to make our services accessible to as many women as possible, WCLAC diversified its service provision channels in 2014 to include e-counselling and family counselling, whilst our emergency helpline was re-launched under the free phone number: 1800-80-70-60. WCLAC's emergency helpline is the only free phone service in the West Bank that offers socio-legal support exclusively to women victims of violence. The updating of services to include online and over-the-phone counselling brings the Centre in line with a new generation for whom the latest technology is second nature, ensuring that our services remain up-to-date and relevant to the needs of the Palestinian population. Furthermore, given the severe restrictions on movement for a large percentage of the female Palestinian population due to policies of the Israeli occupation, incapacitating poverty and patriarchal social norms, these new provisions allow WCLAC to offer much-needed socio-legal services to previously unreachable women.

The email provision allows for a new level of security for women wanting to make contact with WCLAC without the knowledge of an abusive family member, thereby decreasing the risk she takes to access legal and/or social support whilst increasing the likelihood that a woman suffering or at risk of violence would take the step to find help. With these new provisions, WCLAC expanded its horizons to meet a new and unforeseen demand of Palestinian women within '48 borders<sup>55</sup> and the Diaspora. In addition to these electronic services, WCLAC also launched family counselling in 2014 and since the provision was launched in April, the Centre has helped a total 32 families. This service offers mediation through a team of highly experienced lawyers and social workers to guide families through a process of conflict resolution, ideally avoiding the need to bring a case to court; this conserves WCLAC's limited resources for women whose families are unwilling to seek help, litigation and other, and more urgent cases. Finally, through the Takamol National Referral System, WCLAC's Emergency Shelter - the only shelter of its kind in Palestine - was able to provide emergency protection to an unprecedented number of women, whose lives were under threat, hosting a total of 51 women in 2014, a 42% increase on 2013.

#### *Grassroots Partners: extending into the Jordan Valley*

Based on the success of our work with volunteers in the northern West Bank over the past several years, WCLAC's capacity building unit is planning to expand its volunteer base into the south of the West Bank, extending into the Jordan Valley over the next 5 years. With 2 of WCLAC's current volunteer clusters located near the Jordan Valley, some of the volunteers' activities already target isolated communities there. However, the need for more long-term support in this area is great. Palestinian residents, especially women, are extremely vulnerable to rights abuses in this area where they live under Israeli military occupation law, beside Israeli military firing zones and expanding settlements. This means that WCLAC volunteers, who act as a link between WCLAC and their local communities, will be able to reach women living in abject poverty, and women whose lifestyles do not allow for online or over-the-phone communication, including Bedouin women. This will help us to cover all of the most marginalised and vulnerable women in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

#### *Advocacy and Legislative Reform: amendment of article 98*

WCLAC's Advocacy and Legal Reform programme focuses on areas of law that have the greatest potential for a positive impact on women's human rights. WCLAC works closely with duty bearers and key influencers in gender-justice-driven reforms of regulations on several issues such as: Personal Status Law, the Criminal Law, the Family Protection from Violence Law, women with disabilities, social security, the Pension Law and banking rights, as well as women's finance and inheritance rights. Articles 98, 99 and 100 of the 1960 Jordanian Criminal Law, currently applied in the West Bank, which allow for reduced sentences of so called "honour killings", known as femicide, have been on the top of WCLAC's list for legal reform for over a decade. In 2014 a significant success was achieved whereby the President amended article 98 so that perpetrators who committed femicide under the pretext of "honour" be excluded from receiving reduced sentences (*see The Penal Code under section 2.1.3 for details*).

WCLAC played an instrumental role in affecting the amendment of article 98 by pushing for a letter to be sent to the President in 2013 highlighting concerns surrounding the articles and demanding amendments to be introduced to the current penal code as a member of the NGO Forum on Violence Against Women - at least until the PLC convenes in order to adopt the draft Palestinian Penal Code. More recently, in 2014, WCLAC participated in a vigil outside the PA Cabinet demanding the amendment of article 98 and numerous other advocacy efforts lobbying for the article's amendment. This increased pressure on the presidential office - quite possibly related to the PA's signing of CEDAW in April - led the President to make the concrete step of amending the article. Although this is a step forward, further consolidated efforts are required as judges can still refer to articles 99 and 100 to give reduced sentences to perpetrators of femicide. Nonetheless, the amendment of article 98 in 2014 is a welcome development on the path towards gender-sensitive legislative reform, giving hope of a future Palestinian criminal law in which men and women are regarded as equal.

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<sup>55</sup> The term Palestinians and others use to refer to the current geographical land of historical Palestine (before the State of Israel was established in 1948)



Finally, In 2013 WCLAC highlighted the need to develop and improve its standards of documenting femicide, emphasizing the need for a methodology that goes beyond simply documenting cases and attempts to offer a picture of the woman's life. Subsequently, WCLAC developed a gender-sensitive documentation methodology to be implemented by the whole Centre. WCLAC's commitment to excellence and high standards, in this case, made it a national reference for other governmental and non-governmental bodies, most notably the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. PCBS publishes an annual factsheet on the occasion of International Women's Day that reflects the current situation of women in Palestine. In the part concerning VAW, PCBS referenced WCLAC's documentation and data. *To view the factsheet in English please click on the following link:* <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/pcbs/PressRelease/WomensDay2014e.pdf>.

*Capacity Building: Palestine becomes signatory to CEDAW*

The collapse of bilateral negotiations in April 2014 led the PA to sign 18 international conventions and 4 protocols, including CEDAW. This poses a significant opportunity for human rights and women's rights organizations in terms of advancing women's rights. The ratification of CEDAW without reservations allows for the enactment of contemporary laws and the guarantee of full citizenship rights for women, on an equal basis with men. This would entail reforming the applied Personal Status Law and Criminal Law, in addition to adopting new laws that take positive action to accelerate women's access to their rights. In light of WCLAC's work, this will significantly increase the Centre's workload, as WCLAC will contribute to 2 shadow reports and one governmental report, rather than the usual one shadow report to Israel. To this end, WCLAC sent a letter to the President acknowledging this important move and highlighting the steps that must be taken to close the gap between current legislation and CEDAW standards within the '67 borders.<sup>56</sup>

WCLAC also organized a 3-day training conference on CEDAW with foremost experts in the field of national and international law and women's rights. One aim of this conference was to bring representatives from our grassroots partners, CSOs working in the field of women's rights and state actors including MoJ and MoWA together to discuss CEDAW and its implications for Palestinian legislation. The other aim was to delegate reporting tasks among the NGOs according to their specialization, the longer-term output being a collaboratively compiled shadow report to be submitted to the UN alongside the formal PA report in early 2015. Through this process, WCLAC and collaborating organisations will act as a pressure group to lobby the PA to enact laws that are in line with the principles and content of CEDAW. Additionally, WCLAC will participate in consultative meetings with the PA in the preparation of its official report as a member on the CSO branch of the PA's drafting committee. WCLAC's international advocacy unit will continue to monitor and document violations of women's rights by the Israeli authorities to inform our CEDAW shadow report to Israel in accordance with the Centre's ECOSOC special consultative status at the UN.

*Documenting IHL Violations: 36 testimonies collected during the war on Gaza*

During the reporting period, WCLAC fieldworkers documented double the number of testimonies documented over the same period in the previous reporting year. In 2014, WCLAC's small yet highly experienced team of fieldworkers collected a total of 152 testimonies from women who live at friction points; in areas near settlements or settler bypass roads in the West Bank, and in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip where tension is high and where military combat activities were conducted in 2014. In Gaza, stories typically focus on poverty and poor living conditions as a result of the siege. However, this year testimonies were more harrowing than usual, with devastating accounts of abuses recorded in spite of the difficult circumstances. In total, 41 testimonies were compiled by WCLAC's Gaza-based field workers in 2014, 36 of which were compiled during or in the aftermath of the brutal 7 week military offensive on the besieged coastal strip. WCLAC is extremely proud of its Gaza-based fieldworkers who, whilst under fire, fulfilled their professional duties to record the voices of women. WCLAC was also approached by INGOs such as Oxfam and ICAN, who published the Centre's testimonies on their website. *To read some of the testimonies collected in Gaza, see:* <http://www.wclac.org/english/etemplate.php?id=1371>.

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<sup>56</sup> This term refers to the territories of historical Palestine that were occupied by Israeli forces in 1967 namely, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

## **Challenges and Lessons Learnt**

### *Extreme Poverty*

This year WCLAC received a number of women clients whose material circumstances forced them to discontinue follow-up of legal and social cases at the Centre and in court. Although WCLAC supplements the cost of representation fees for three cases per woman, beyond this the woman is expected to cover any additional cases herself. Hence whilst we stand by women living in abject poverty whose material circumstances are extremely difficult or non-existent, due to limited funds we are forced to select three cases in order to distribute our resources fairly and maximize the number of women we can receive. Consequently, some women were unable to receive support for additional legal and social cases this year. Under these circumstances, the Centre finds itself offering selective support – something we try to avoid under all circumstances. However, where possible, we seek out experienced advocates of women's rights affiliated to the Centre who may be able offer to support for these additional cases. Further, WCLAC's introduction of family counselling as a complementary service provision in 2014 helps families willing to work together to overcome problems through a process of mediation, offering an alternative to court proceedings.

### *Legislative Reform and a Malfunctioning Legislative System*

As a result of the Hamas win in the 2006 elections, and the ensuing Israeli and foreign policies towards the party, the PLC has been unable to convene since early 2007. As of 1 October, 28 members of the PLC were incarcerated within the Israeli military prison system and in 2014 PLC member and leading feminist activist Khalida Jarar was handed an expulsion order by the Israeli occupation forces, banning her from entering Ramallah for 6 months. Hence whilst the amendment of article 98 of the 1960 Jordanian Penal Code is a significant step forward, the move remains uncertain and liable to change. When the PLC reconvenes at some as yet unspecified point in the future, the amendment and its implications will be discussed. However, if PLC membership remains majority Hamas, the amendment risks being revoked. The unstable political situation has adversely affected the enactment of different laws in the OPT. This is especially evident with the Personal Status Law where articles that the Coalition (consisting of GOs and NGOs) suggested to develop the Personal Status Law were not pursued. The Cabinet suspended this Coalition because the Shari'a High Judicial Council is currently working on developing the law by itself, without any consultation with CSOs.

### *Takamol National Referral System*

The Takamol National Referral System, developed by WCLAC and Juzoor, is a comprehensive set of protocol made available in the form of a manual for use by legal, health and social service providers to ensure the effective referral of women victims of violence. The system faced several challenges this year with regards to its full and efficient implementation. Approved by the Cabinet in December 2013, WCLAC found a number of gaps between the intended and actual effect of the training carried out in early 2014. Several systemic obstacles preventing the effective implementation of the Takamol system were identified: Regular staff rotation among service providers meant that new employees did not receive training in Takamol. Additionally, the list of service providers containing contact details of referral institutions was not regularly updated. Finally, the function of WCLAC's emergency shelter - the only shelter of its kind in the West Bank and the first for emergency cases - and procedures for assessing the level of threat to a woman's life, were not clearly understood by service providers referring cases. Without a clear understanding as to the functions of available services and how to prioritise cases, service providers are unable to effectively implement the referral system. WCLAC is currently in the process of planning a set of interventions to address and overcome these obstacles, with the intended aim of consolidating the Takamol system to affect its full and effective implementation throughout the West Bank.

### *Obstacles to Documentation*

The documentation and advocacy unit experienced significant obstacles in the documentation of femicide and incest cases in 2014. Severe delays from the Public Prosecution Office (PPO) in response to requests to obtain access to files had a negative effect on WCLAC's ability to provide comprehensive and reliable data. Therefore, whilst documentation staff identified 27 deaths of girls and women under suspicious circumstances in 2014, WCLAC cannot provide an exact number of cases that may be deemed femicide since many cases remain under documentation. In general, WCLAC experiences a lack of cooperation from key stakeholders regarding the

documentation of femicide and incest cases. In order to overcome this obstacle, WCLAC intends to implement the signing of an MOU between the PPO and WCLAC in 2015, detailing the duties and responsibilities of each party in providing relevant information for the accurate documentation of cases and to institute a clear protocol for the process of obtaining information. Furthermore, WCLAC documented 0 cases of incest in 2014. This can be attributed to several reasons including problems in communication on the part of the PPO. Most prominently however, WCLAC noticed throughout the year that many cases of violence against women (incest in particular) do not go through the formal criminal system and as such the Centre made a decision to document informal law cases and cases that do not go to court from 2015. The Documentation and Advocacy Unit is currently in the process of developing a methodology to facilitate this programme.

## **Part II** *Detailed Activity Report*

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

1.1. Provide professional legal and social services to women who are victims of violence, abuse and gender-based discrimination

1.1.1. Extend through legal and social services to women in the West Bank

The provision of legal and social counselling services constitutes the backbone of WCLAC's approach to protecting and empowering women suffering gender-based discrimination and violence. Through the provision of social and legal counselling via a variety of channels, women are supported and guided through a process of claiming their rights - if necessary, through court proceedings. Throughout 2014 WCLAC continued to provide quality legal and social services to women through a team of lawyers and social workers based in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem.

Over the reporting period, WCLAC provided legal and social counselling to a total of 1,364 women: 462 received long-term legal and social counselling (120 received legal counselling; 76 received social counselling and 266 received joint social and legal counselling); one-off socio-legal consultations (370); emergency helpline (217); e-counselling (13); family counselling (32); WCLAC in-court lawyers (219) and emergency shelter (51). Of the 462 women who received long-term support, 179 were received in Hebron; 172 in Ramallah; 59 in Jerusalem and 52 in Bethlehem. WCLAC opened a total of 450 new cases in 2014 - 386 of which went to court. This is in addition to 64 cases opened in 2013 (26 of which concluded in 2014 and 38 of which remain open), and 120 pending cases from the 2014 cycle, meaning that a total of 634 cases were worked on in 2014. It is worth noting that the number of women seen does not represent the number of cases represented in court, since one woman might pursue several legal cases. The maximum number of cases that may be represented stands at 3 cases per women (*see: Challenges*).

Out of the 233 court cases which closed in 2014, WCLAC's lawyers obtained 197 legal verdicts in favour of women whose cases included *nafaka*, divorce, custody, *mahr*, financial rights and compensation for divorce. The rate of court cases ending in favourable verdicts thus stands at 85% for 2014. Additionally, 57 cases closed with a positive outcome after the women clients dropped the cases and returned to their marital/family homes. Through a process of mediation, WCLAC supported relevant parties in reaching durable solutions to the problems faced by WCLAC's women clients whereby the woman was able to claim some or all of her rights via agreements on the part of the offender(s) to honour her needs and rights without bringing the case to a court. Furthermore, 36 out-of-court settlements were reached including cases of divorce in exchange for amnesty, whereby the woman was able to claim part of her rights based on a personal decision and family intervention.

Whilst WCLAC lawyers’ and social workers’ provide legal aid and social support to women on all manner of social and legal issues, social pressure and stigma force some women to drop their case(s) prematurely, compromising their rights in order to bring the case to a close. WCLAC considers such cases a partial achievement in defending women’s rights, as the fact that women initially demonstrated a will to stake a claim for their rights is a positive indication. Overall in 2014, WCLAC succeeded in supporting the vast majority of women recipients of legal and social aid in claiming their rights and 85% of WCLAC's clients reported an improved understanding of their rights.

Table 1. Type of service provided

		Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Type of service	Legal and social	29	65	150	22	266
	Legal	20	40	23	37	120
	Social	3	67	6	0	76
	<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>462</b>

Table 2. Social Indicator: Level of Education

		Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Level of education	Unknown	0	0	4	0	4
	Primary School	3	10	13	7	33
	Middle School	9	49	41	18	117
	Secondary school	21	61	74	16	217
	Higher education	12	24	24	10	70
	University	7	28	23	8	66

Table 3. Social Indicator: Age of Beneficiaries

		Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Age	over 37	7	32	35	25	99
	18-36	40	122	136	32	330
	Under 18	5	18	8	2	33

Table 4. Social Indicator: Personal Status

	Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Abandoned	0	15	14	3	32
Widowed	2	2	3	2	9
Divorced	8	35	19	12	74
Separated	0	1	2	4	7
Married	1	25	15	18	59
Engaged	1	3	1	2	7
Single	1	18	4	2	25
Sharia contract	7	7	8	1	23
<i>Urfi</i> <sup>57</sup> contract	0	0	0	1	1
Temporarily separated	33	64	116	12	225

Table 5. Perpetrator

	Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Outside the family	0	0	2	3	5
Immediate Family	3	25	9	2	39
Ex-husband	6	13	15	11	45
Husband's family	0	3	5	2	10
Husband	35	115	130	41	321
Fiancé	7	8	10	0	25
Other relatives	1	3	7	0	11
Friends or neighbours	0	5	1	0	6

Table 6. Source of Referral

	Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Courts	17	29	50	0	96

<sup>57</sup> An *Urfi* marriage is an informal marriage contract, not registered with the state authorities

Source of Referral	Police	1	3	2	0	6
	Governorates	0	4	3	0	7
	Social Services	5	40	12	3	60
	Other institutions	11	11	28	2	52
	Individual	5	0	3	0	8
	Other	0	12	4	2	18
	Unknown	0	78	83	54	215

Table 7. Origin of Client

		Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Origin	South	51	20	178	2	251
	Central	1	131	1	54	187
	North	0	21	0	3	24

Table 8. Type of work

		Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
Type of work	Housewife	32	78	130	43	283
	Student	10	14	11	9	44
	Unemployed	6	49	8	0	63
	Civil servant	2	9	4	1	16
	Company employee	1	18	25	6	50
	Irregular work (home)	1	3	1	0	5
	unregistered business	0	1	0	0	1

Table 9. Legal/Social Case

		Bethlehem	Ramallah	Hebron	Jerusalem	Total
	Marital obedience	0	4	2	0	6
	Custody visitations	5	9	22	5	41



Legal / Social Case	Nafaka (alimony)	30	43	63	28	163
	Mahr (dowry)	4	10	15	3	32
	Divorce	7	31	32	5	75
	Family/Marital conflict	5	8	6	5	24
	Custody and rent	2	3	2	1	8
	Rights cases	1	1	4	2	8
	Criminal cases	0	1	3	0	4
	Procedural cases	0	0	2	0	2
	Physical violence	1	14	10	4	29
	Sexual violence	1	3	5	1	10
	Psychological violence	1	13	5	0	20
	Economic violence	0	2	3	0	5
	Other	3	25	3	4	37



In April 2014, WCLAC announced the launch of a new e-counselling provision; posters and stickers were distributed across the West Bank in May and June and announcements were periodically aired on Rab'a radio station in Hebron and Raya FM in Ramallah from June to the end of the year. This online provision complements direct and over-the-phone channels providing access to a comprehensive set of services provided by WCLAC, including one-time legal and social consultations, long-term consultations, mediation and family counselling,

representation in court and litigation in order to attain legal precedents in favour of women's rights. Since freedom of movement and access for women in the OPT is severely impeded due to restrictions on movement imposed by the Occupation and exacerbated by patriarchal norms and debilitating poverty, many women in dire need of socio-legal support find themselves unable to access it.

However, women victims of violence can now access legal and social support through a free helpline during WCLAC working hours (8am-3pm) and through an online service operated round the clock by the Centre's lawyers and social workers who respond within 24 hours. In 2014 a total of 13 counselling sessions were held via email. This small number can be attributed to the delay in announcements via the radio which meant that awareness of the provision only began to grow in the second half of 2014. Around the same time as promotion of e-counselling began, WCLAC launched the provision of family counselling and 32 families were received from April to the beginning of December. This service proved an effective framework for mediation and conflict resolution whereby numerous cases were resolved without the need for a court case. WCLAC also conducts one-time legal and social counselling consultations following awareness raising activities, and this year 65 sessions were held with 487 housewives in WCLAC's 4 offices. *See Appendix A for more details on awareness raising activities with housewives.*

### *Empower women with information and guidance on taking cases to court*

In an effort to provide women with up-to-date, reliable information on their rights, a total of 3041 copies of manuals on legislation and court procedures were distributed to participants of awareness raising workshops covering issues such as: *nafaka*, custody, implementation of verdicts, divorce and separation among different Christian denominations, civil court functions, inheritance and special conditions in the marriage contract. Further, 100 women were empowered through support in filling out paperwork to file court cases on custody and *nafaka*, with the result of increasing women's knowledge on how to access the justice system in order to stake a claim to their rights. Finally, whilst the *Takamol* national referral system experienced a number of obstacles this year (*see: Challenges*), WCLAC successfully referred 30 women to other services providers when women's cases or immediate needs did not come under WCLAC's remit: 13 women were referred to social services; 1 to the Islamic Charity Committee in Hebron; 15 to the Police Family Protection Unit and 1 to UNRWA. Therefore, rather than turning away women whose cases do not come under WCLAC's remit, WCLAC successfully referred all such cases to other providers and duty bearers, making sure that women receive the most appropriate and comprehensive support possible.

### *Provide legal consultations to women in the Centre, Sharia and the civil courts*

WCLAC's trainee lawyers continued to provide legal aid to women in civil and Sharia courts in the West Bank in 2014. During the reporting period, 219 women - a 52% increase on 2013 - received legal aid in civil and Sharia courts based in Ramallah, Hebron and Jerusalem. Consultations in the civil courts centred on the procedures department and the implementation of verdicts, whilst in Sharia court consultations dealt with numerous personal status issues, most prominently *nafaka*, custody, divorce, marriage and *mahr*. As part of these efforts, 57 in-depth consultation sessions were conducted on issues of custody and *nafaka*, marital obedience, abandonment and separation with a focus on court procedures and grounds for arrest as was requested by the women. WCLAC's trainee lawyers were sought out at the end of 2013 when WCLAC's initiative to install a help desk of women at the Sharia courts was abandoned after the Supreme Judge refused initiative due to lack of space and a perceived conflict between court lawyers and WCLAC's lawyers. WCLAC responded by contracting 3 trainee lawyers to provide legal consultations to women in Sharia and civil courts at their request. This service enables women who are not familiar with their legal rights or WCLAC's work, and who suffer from limited financial resources, to receive the appropriate legal advice free of charge - a service they would otherwise not be able to afford.

As the first year in which the trainee lawyers programme was implemented in courts in the West Bank, WCLAC conducted a full evaluation and found a number of significant obstacles to be overcome. Court lawyers complained that WCLAC lawyers were taking away their customers by offering women free legal aid. This is in spite of the fact that WCLAC's free-of-charge services actually worked to lessen the workload of court employees by providing women with little or no legal knowledge, with know-how on where to go and what to do for their specific case. In response to this problem, WCLAC submitted a letter to the Supreme Judge to obtain formal permission for the continued presence of WCLAC lawyers in the courts and to suggest that WCLAC lawyers be stationed in the administrative consultation room with the presence of a social worker. This would have the two-fold effect of protecting confidentiality when discussing legal matters and would solve the problem of hostility by other lawyers who saw WCLAC's presence as an informal imposition by institutionalising WCLAC lawyers' presence in the courts.

### *Re-establish a helpline for women seeking social and emergency counselling services*

The re-launching of the helpline in 2014 saw the establishment of an independent free phone number, the training of 12 helpline volunteers and the contracting of two full-time emergency helpline staff. In 2014, WCLAC trained a total of 12 carefully selected female Social Work students in their final year of study to become helpline volunteers. The 12-hour, interactive training course focused on familiarising volunteers with core help line counselling skills, including telephone manner, intervention mechanisms and, most importantly, confidentiality and professionalism. As result, 217 social and legal counselling sessions via the helpline were held in 2014. When necessary, callers were referred to the appropriate services – whether to WCLAC's Emergency Shelter which receives women around the clock or other legal, social or health services. However, monthly evaluations submitted by the helpline volunteers indicated that the helpline was being used mainly by women to follow up on their cases, not as a special access provision for emergencies and unreachable cases. WCLAC also faced many

unintended consequences as a result of an arrangement with helpline volunteers to work 2 days a month each. For example, the trust built up between the caller and the helpline counsellor was disrupted when one counsellor was replaced by another.

WCLAC acted quickly to overcome these unforeseen challenges, contracting two specialists in the south and two in the centre to develop and promote the helpline. In September, WCLAC decided to hire one experienced full-time help line counsellor in Hebron and one in Ramallah. As a result, cases were received without delay, relationships were sustained and more calls were received in line with the service's intended function. In order to share knowledge of best practices and develop a shared evaluation methodology, WCLAC sought out another organisation with expertise in helpline provisions. SAWA, a Palestinian NGO offering psychological support for women in the West Bank and Gaza, was identified as a partner in this project and WCLAC will work with WCLAC to produce a joint evaluation methodology in 2015.

#### *Establish and provide a family counselling service*

Based on the knowledge that in the great majority of VAW cases, the perpetrator is a family member, and the belief that domestic violence not only affects the perpetrator and the victim, but impacts the entire family, WCLAC established a family counselling service in 2014. In April, WCLAC trained 10 counsellors over 4 days on intervention mechanisms, rehabilitation of the victim/perpetrator and skills to determine participatory solutions for the benefit of the family. Since the launch of the new service in April, 32 cases requesting family counselling were received.

#### **Success Story: Helpline**

In 2014, WCLAC's helpline received a call from a woman threatening to commit suicide because her father and husband had clandestinely agreed the father would keep her 2 year old son from a previous marriage and that she would return to her marital home alone. This was against her wishes, as she had stipulated the upbringing of her son with her new husband as a condition in the marriage contract.

The name and number of the caller was taken by the helpline counsellor who, in turn, referred the call to a WCLAC social worker present in the office, before making contact with the helpline manager and the Police Family Protection Unit. The police then immediately undertook an investigation in collaboration with WCLAC to locate the woman, her husband and father.

During the investigation proceedings WCLAC's highly trained social worker maintained close contact with the caller, all the time attempting to calm her down and comfort her, putting into practice a wide range of psycho-social counselling techniques. With the support of WCLAC's services unit, the caller was made fully aware of her legal rights. Moreover, WCLAC's social worker assured the caller that WCLAC and the police were doing all they could to bring her son safely back to her.

Through precise and timely communication on the part of the helpline counsellor, WCLAC staff and the authorities, the police were able to persuade the caller's father and her husband to sign a legally binding agreement drafted by one of WCLAC's lawyers to honour the caller's wishes. WCLAC's legal team was solely responsible for the creation of the legally binding agreement as it was not in the police's remit to do so, they could only enforce it. The Police Family Protection Unit followed up the case with WCLAC and the caller received several follow-up calls from WCLAC for monitoring purposes. WCLAC is now reassured that the caller is currently living happily with her son and new husband.

#### **Special project: *Protect the Rights and Improve the Resilience of Vulnerable Communities in East Jerusalem***

This multi-partner project, funded by the EU and Oxfam, focuses on revitalizing Palestinian CSOs in East Jerusalem and mobilizing communities in five neighborhoods (Silwan, Isawiya, Old City, Wadi Al Joz and Sur Baher) to improve access to, and protection of, residents' social, political and economic rights; the project, which

began in 2012 and ends in 2016, is being implemented in partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, the Agriculture Development Association, Juzoor for Health and Social Development and the Palestinian Counselling Center, as well as WCLAC. As part of this project, WCLAC is implementing a comprehensive intervention that seeks to achieve the determined outcome: *East Jerusalemite women have improved awareness of and claims to their rights in public and private spheres, and gain resilience to and documentation of rights abuses*. The intervention consists of providing services to women victims of violence through socio-legal counselling and awareness-raising activities targeting housewives, working women, students, professionals and volunteers, and documenting IHL violations by Israeli authorities in East Jerusalem.

In 2014, 38 testimonies from women victims of violence at the hands of the Israeli authorities were documented, 63 women received long-term legal and social support (6 legal, 50 joint legal and social and 6 social) and 11 women received one-time socio-legal consultations for cases including sexual abuse, economic deprivation and cases of disputed parentage. WCLAC conducted 19 group counselling sessions in partnership with Jerusalem Society for Cooperation, Sheikh Jarrah Women's Forum and Community House for Social Health & Care. These sessions targeted 43 women from marginalised communities. This aided local women in staking claims to their rights and growing an awareness of the services available to them at WCLAC's Jerusalem office and other service providers in East Jerusalem. A total of 22 volunteers who participated in 27 hours of supervised monthly meetings and a 4-day (20-hour) training course for 26 students (8 male; 18 female) at Al-Quds University subsequently conducted 19 awareness-raising sessions on legal and social issues with 238 women in their local communities. This contributed to growing awareness among East Jerusalemite women as to the means available to them to exercise and defend their legal, social and economic rights.

### 1.1.2 Maintain and develop the capacity of WCLAC's Service Unit to respond to the needs of Palestinian women

With the beginning of a new year, WCLAC's Services Unit sought to develop core staff competencies as a means to improve service provisions for women suffering from gender-based discrimination across the entirety of its branches. Through 151 hours of supervision, 181 hours of training, in-depth department meetings and on-going theoretical analysis, WCLAC's Service Unit was able to meet the needs of an increasing number of Palestinian women in 2014. In light of the complexities of Palestinian society, which are reflected in the complexity of socio-legal issues Palestinian women face, it was necessary to work on developing mechanisms supporting women first, and methods of service delivery next. To this end WCLAC continued to expand its knowledge base as to the most appropriate and effective method of service delivery, which is at the same time able to meet the most fundamental needs of women and correlates with our capacity to do so. In line with this aim, WCLAC continued to seek out new partnerships with grassroots service providers throughout the West Bank including East Jerusalem in order to increase the Centre's capacity and to expand the locations in which our services are available to women.

WCLAC views the personal and professional development of our lawyers and social workers as key to maintaining and developing the capacity of WCLAC's Service Unit to effectively respond to the needs of Palestinian women. In 2014, the Service Unit held 5 group supervision sessions from a total of 10 intended sessions. The reason for this gap was due to the fact that the supervisor responsible for this supervision was contracted to conduct all types of supervision - group, individual and the supervision of supervisors - however this arrangement did not achieve the desired results. It was not possible to gather all members of the team to receive supervision at once and the supervisor himself expressed a desire for the centre to carry out the contract with two supervisors in order to provide individual and group supervision separately. In the future, WCLAC will seek to commission two supervisors in order to complete the different supervisions. In spite of this unforeseen complexity however, 25 individual sessions on service provision and support to socio-legal specialists were held during the first half of 2014. Additionally, 3 'supervision of supervisors' sessions were held in the first quarter, and 11 periodic departmental meetings dealing with a wide range of issues, such as the professional documentation and archiving of cases, were held throughout the year.

*Write and publish analysis papers identifying trends based on WCLAC's client database*

WCLAC continues to write and publish analysis papers identifying and analysing trends based on WCLAC's database of client files. In 2014, the service unit prepared 6 brief analysis papers (available in Arabic here: <http://www.wclac.org/ainside.php?id=36>) on the situation of women in Palestine touching on issues ranging from gender-discriminatory legislation and the legal situation of Palestinian women in Jerusalem to neglected issues and femicide, under the following titles: 'Femicide: Shameful Killings, Not Killings that Wash Away the Shame', 'The Gap Between Reality and the Law'. 'Annexed Issues: Women Between Discrimination and Deprivation', 'Violence Against Women', 'Legal Justice or Legal Oppression?', 'The Plight of Women in Jerusalem'

*Develop and maintain strategic relations for the Service Unit and WCLAC's shelter*

WCLAC's service unit seeks to develop and maintain strategic relations with relevant institutions such as the local authorities, security forces, the justice sector and various ministries in order to facilitate coherent socio-legal protection service provisions across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This enables us to deliver the most comprehensive care possible to the most vulnerable women, and lessen the possibility of women "slipping through the net" - something we seek to avoid under all circumstances. In 2014, WCLAC held over 20 meetings with partner organisations including MoSA and the directors of various governorates across the West Bank in order to exchange experiences of best practices to protect female victims of violence.

The Head of Services and WCLAC's late Director also met with The Police Family Protection Unit on a quarterly basis as a means to build strategies for effective coordination - with a special focus on reinforcing mechanisms of the Takamol National Referral System. Some shared concerns were discussed and plans, safeguarded by MOUs signed by WCLAC and the police, were put in place to resolve them. Finally, significant developments made in working with victims of domestic abuse were celebrated. In 12 meetings held with MoSA, MoH and the police, strategies for effective interventions in emergency cases were discussed, with the aim of increasing the efficiency and professionalism of joined-up efforts to protect some of the most vulnerable women, whose lives may be under threat. A significant achievement made was the agreement that the police would submit an initial report to WCLAC on their experiences of referring women to the Emergency Shelter in Jericho. It is hoped that this will aid with more efficient referral of women and help related authorities to better prioritise the level of threat to women's lives so that WCLAC can continue to prioritise women whose lives are under the greatest levels of threat.

### 1.1.3 Offer protection services to women survivors and those who are at risk of violence

WCLAC seeks to provide emergency protection for women at risk of violence or femicide through managing the referral of women and their children to WCLAC's emergency shelter. This takes place in coordination with the police and MoSA. During the reporting period, WCLAC provided emergency protection to 51 women whose lives were at risk - a 47% increase from 2013. Of these, 3 women had their children with them (5 children in total; 3 male and 2 female) and 5 women were pregnant. Some of the 51 women were referred to the Emergency Shelter more than once in 2014, since their cases were followed up and they were referred back to the Shelter. The length of stay typically ranges from one day to one month according to the Emergency Shelter policies. However, 9 women stayed longer than 1 month due to a delay in implementing the women's individual rehabilitation plans on the part of the MoSA directors in the governorates which the women were referred from. This part of the intervention plan is essential for the successful handling of women's cases as it focuses on the women's smooth transition back into their homes and communities. During several joint meetings between WCLAC's Emergency Shelter staff and the wider service unit staff, several major obstacles were identified in the relationship between WCLAC and our main referral partners, MoSA and the police.

One important point was the need to improve initial reports from our referral partners so that we have all the necessary information to make informed and timely interventions. Due to the lack of clarity and information given on initial reports, WCLAC staff spent a lot of time following up with partners to obtain the necessary information on which to base a comprehensive and appropriate intervention. This disrupts the client's transition into the shelter and can be very stressful for both the client and staff. In order to address this challenge, WCLAC's service unit intends to facilitate an MOU between MoSA, the police and WCLAC to clarify what is required of initial reports and to improve this procedure in early 2015. For example, we require the criminal files of the woman and the



perpetrator to establish whether or not we need to file a restraining order to protect our client and our staff. Likewise, WCLAC is working on improving communication and coordination with MoSA regarding the rehabilitation phase to make sure that our clients receive all the support necessary for the transition back to their homes with ease.

### Success Story: **Emergency Shelter**

(L), a mother of two, was referred to WCLAC's emergency shelter by the Police Family Protection Unit after she managed to escape from her family who had rejected her wish to divorce her and intimated that her life would be at risk if she went through with the divorce.

This woman - whose husband had a criminal record and was wanted by the justice system for previous crimes - was completely convinced of her wish to divorce. She had spoken to WCLAC's social worker of how her husband was never at home due to his fear of being caught by the security services. WCLAC's lawyers and social workers made sure that (L) was confident in her decision through its standard referral procedure of 3 visits to a social worker before legal proceedings are initiated.

During counselling sessions at WCLAC's emergency shelter, (L) had expressed a desire to continue her studies as soon as she left the shelter. She had acquired good grades at secondary school and had a diploma in beauty therapy. In spite of these qualifications and her desire to study, (L) felt that she couldn't return to her studies now. WCLAC's service unit worked closely with (L), providing her with psychological and social counselling in an effort to build up her self-confidence, affirming that she was more than capable of pursuing her studies and suggesting practical solutions to issues holding her back, such as childcare.

WCLAC's Emergency Shelter lawyers in conjunction with the police, summoned (L)'s family and convinced them to respect their daughter's right to divorce through the signing of a legal affidavit in the police Family Protection Unit. This intervention ensured that (L)'s life was no longer under threat. Our lawyers then guided (L) through the client-led process of building up a case for divorce and successfully represented her at court.

Following (L)'s stay at the Shelter and after she began the divorce proceedings with a WCLAC lawyer, WCLAC was pleased to learn that (L) had enrolled at university. In a follow-up meeting, (L) expressed that she was very happy with this decision since a university degree would help her to find well-paid work so that she could support herself financially in order to raise her children on her own. (L) is now a strong independent woman and legally divorced, living comfortably with her children on her own.

### *Build the capacity of the shelter staff and volunteers to provide quality services*

In addition to the professional development of the Centre's lawyers and social workers, WCLAC continued to build the capacity of the Emergency Shelter staff including the shelter's director, social workers, house mothers and volunteers. A total of 8 supervision sessions lasting 4 hours each were held with WCLAC's 4 house mothers and a 3-day training session on skills in interacting with women victims of violence was attended by house mothers and the Shelter's 5 volunteers. Shelter staff attended trainings in First Aid to gain practical skills and knowledge on how to treat some of the symptoms that women at the Emergency Shelter suffer from such as high blood pressure and diabetes. WCLAC sees the presence of trained First Aiders on site at the Emergency Shelter as a certain necessity, ensuring the physical well-being of the women during their stay in the Shelter - as well as the continued growth of WCLAC staff's skills and knowledge which can also be put to use in their own lives.

Further, as a testament to the dedication of Emergency Shelter volunteers who actively engage in all of the Shelter's activities and trainings, 3 sessions run by the volunteers were held throughout the year covering topics which included the preparation of nutritious and delicious meals for the women in the Shelter to make sure that they are receiving all essential nutrients. Finally, the house mothers also undertook a regional visit to a shelter for women victims of violence in Jordan in order to share knowledge and exchange experiences and perspectives on best practices for the continued quality of service provisions. Out of this field trip came the idea for a regional network of women's shelters, beginning with Palestine and Jordan to facilitate annual visits to different shelters in



order to learn from each shelter's unique experiences and to act as a reference in times of crises. At the end of 2013 WCLAC installed a gym for the women staying at the Emergency Shelter. This facility was well subscribed in 2014, providing a much-needed space allowing the women to enjoy the benefits of physical exercise to release unspent energy and to care for women's mental and physical well-being.

## 1.2 Raise awareness of women's legal and social rights amongst Palestinian communities in the West Bank

### 1.2.1 Raise awareness amongst Palestinian women so that they can identify and condemn negative practices against women and can access resources for help

In 2014, WCLAC established 2 awareness raising groups with housewives in new locations namely, the central West Bank villages of Deir Jarir and Jeep, located in the Ramallah and Jerusalem governorates respectively. Over June and July, WCLAC held 20 hours of awareness raising sessions with the first group (20 participants), with the aim of introducing WCLAC, its work, programs and services. Sessions also included presentations and discussions on international and local law with a particular focus on the concept and components of the marriage contract and the 'rights of the wife' in Personal Status Law. Awareness raising sessions from the second group took place in Jeep in October and focused on discussing the concerns of the participants since the circumstances under which the women live are extremely difficult. When the illegal Wall was constructed in 2005, it cut right through the middle of the village, separating off the east from the west and encircling the east part of the village. As Area C is on the other side of the Wall, it is unreachable to the PA and only ever entered by the Israeli forces to conduct night raids and arrests. As a result of high unemployment, community division and unbearable living conditions, a drug culture has exploded in this 'seam zone'<sup>58</sup> and many of the women's husbands and children are now drug users.

WCLAC observed a coping/survival strategy among women during these sessions whereby they would tell each other to be patient and bear with the violence that they are exposed to, indicating that frequent exposure to violence is tolerated by women. WCLAC addressed this phenomenon with sensitivity in an effort to break the silence on the subject, raising questions about why women tend not to seek help when exposed to violence. A discussion ensued with a consensus reached that in order to stop the violence women must speak out. Beyond this, WCLAC offered information on all of the services available to the women to seek protection and justice, as well as rehabilitation for drug users. 25 one-off direct legal and social individual consultations took place in both groups, increasing women's access to information on their rights and to legal aid. ***Please refer to Appendix A for more detailed information on the sessions.*** WCLAC believes that maintaining pace with developments in laws impacting women in Palestine is an important component of raising women's awareness with regards to their rights. In line with this position, WCLAC produced a newsletter on breast-feeding, housing, custody and *nafaka* for child health and medication. Additionally, WCLAC redeveloped 5 awareness-raising materials in light of the latest legal developments on inheritance rights, implementation of verdicts, divorce, ecclesiastical divorce and civil courts in the West Bank governorates.

#### *Provide support to women living in the seam zone by raising awareness about their rights*

As well as empowering local women's rights activists, in 2013 WCLAC also expanded its awareness-raising activities to include workshops for women living in the seam zone, where women are especially at risk of being subjected to violence by the Israeli authorities. These workshops target women from particularly marginalized areas in Area C including Hebron (Israeli controlled H2 especially) and its surrounding areas, where women suffer severe movement restrictions and a lack of services due to the Israeli Occupation and the vast number of extremist ideological Zionist settlers living among the indigenous Palestinian community. Among the aims of this activity is the empowerment of women participants to express themselves and their demands to decision makers, and to form a follow up committee in order to ensure that their demands are heard. In 2014, the Palestinian community faced

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<sup>58</sup> This area consists of around 10% of the West Bank and has been declared a closed military zone to Palestinians. See WCLAC's report, *Life Behind the Wall*, for more information: <http://www.wclac.org/english/userfiles/Life%20Behind%20the%20Wall.pdf>

increased restrictions on movement and access as area H2 was sealed off from H1 for Palestinians for several weeks in August and October as part of a collective punishment policy for setting fire to the military checkpoint container.

Earlier in the year (April and May 2014), WCLAC established 4 new women's groups in southern West Bank governorates in partnership with local organizations; Husan and Al-Khader in Bethlehem, and Yatta and Samou' in Hebron, comprising 71 women. WCLAC conducted a total of 27 workshops, introducing the centre and shedding light on numerous topics including GBV, domestic violence and violence against children, early marriage, marriage contracts, broken families, femicide, sexual violence, custody, *nafaka* and divorce. The intended outcome of this was to increase rural and marginalised women's access to reliable information regarding their rights and enhance women's access to socio-legal services available to them to defend and exercise their rights through referrals to relevant local organisations, including WCLAC's branches in Bethlehem and Hebron. Feedback from participants after the sessions suggested that the women increased their knowledge of how and where to access resources to combat negative practices against women. It is worth noting that the workshop in Yatta was organised in response to an incident of femicide in which one girl was murdered and her sister was critically injured after they were both raped whilst working in the fields. WCLAC worked with MoSA to facilitate this emergency workshop, feeling it necessary to provide a safe space for women in which to express their opinions and feelings on the incident. WCLAC used this opportunity to inform women of laws protecting their rights in the OPT, as well as the importance of women's participation in legislative reform.

Over the reporting period, WCLAC conducted 21 meetings, awareness raising sessions and socio-legal consultations in the following three areas in Hebron: the Old City, Tel Rumeida and Al-Sheikh Neighborhood, reaching a total of 113 women. The sessions introduced WCLAC and initiated a dialogue on the issue of femicide, reproductive health care, inter-family relationships, social empowerment and legal empowerment, solidarity among women, needs of women, domestic violence and GBV. Additionally, a workshop with 25 social workers and women in the Old City was conducted on the status of women in local laws, Criminal Law and Personal Status Law in particular, with the aim of raising the awareness of women on the shortcomings of these laws in articles pertaining to women to inform their advocacy efforts regarding legislative reform. Among the successful outcomes of the activities was a reported increase in women's self-esteem; several participants mentioned in the evaluation that they used to be afraid of participating in activities and speaking out but that these workshops had given them the opportunity to use their voice and, most importantly, be heard in a safe and supporting environment. Further, several of the workshops were attended by decision makers from MoSA, giving women living in extremely difficult circumstances the opportunity to raise the concerns and have them put on the national agenda.

### 1.2.1 Raise awareness within key target groups who can support a positive attitude towards women's rights

*Hold workshops on women's rights with youth and university students*



WCLAC believes that the youth play a pivotal role in shaping current and future opinions and attitudes on women's rights. For this reason, WCLAC has produced an adaptable module entitled 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' targeting law and social work students in coordination with 5 Palestinian universities: Istiklal, Al Quds, Birzeit, Hebron and The American University. In 2014, WCLAC conducted three training workshops, targeting 127 students at Birzeit, Hebron and Al-Quds University with 43 males and 84 females over 4 days. The workshops included an introduction to gender, Palestinian women and the Criminal Law, Palestinian women and the Personal Status Law, CEDAW and protection mechanisms. Numerous participants expressed their desire to continue working with WCLAC; this was

Numerous participants expressed their desire to continue working with WCLAC; this was

reflected in their mobilization of more youth to participate in a demonstration on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

College students studying social work were also targeted in an effort to take maximum advantage of the window of opportunity that students represent; being exposed to new ideas which may contradict information they learned in their childhood, students are more likely to question traditional practices and attitudes. To this end, WCLAC held four awareness raising sessions over 15 hours with 25 female college students per workshop. In September, WCLAC held a workshop at Al Tireh College in Ramallah on the relationship between gender-based discrimination and violence and the Occupation and domestic violence. During this meeting, a consensus was reached that there is no religious sanction that dictates house chores rest with the woman and that this is a societal norm and can therefore change. Whilst arrangements with academic institutions always require a high level of organisation and advanced planning, sometimes up to a year in advance, WCLAC sees its partnerships with colleges and universities as essential to the application of our theory of change. ***For more details, please refer to Appendix C.***

#### *Lead awareness raising workshops on women's rights for targeted groups and institutions*

WCLAC views the sensitization of young men, future husbands and fathers, towards gender-related issues as an important part of bringing about lasting positive change regarding women's status in society, and in offering an empowering alternative to dominant gendered narratives. For this reason, WCLAC targeted 22 young men over a 4-day (32 hours) winter camp in Jericho in January. Over the four days, the young men reflected on the status of Palestinian women in society – mechanisms to improve it and obstacles preventing it. Overall there was a positive reaction to WCLAC's messages, however in certain cases WCLAC observed resistance from male participants to women participating in the workforce as architects and engineers; some deemed this as "men's work". This highlights the importance of WCLAC's work with young men and women, providing them with the opportunity to question such assumptions and to consider alternative points of view.

WCLAC continues to respond to opportunities and requests for information sessions throughout the year from institutions, NGOs, CBOs, and other groups, in accordance with our mission to enhance the general public's awareness and understanding of GBV and discrimination and to stimulate a public dialogue around ways to create positive, long-lasting change by developing a culture of zero tolerance towards it. To this end, WCLAC delivered an information session on the Jordanian inheritance law currently applied in the West Bank for the Haifa-based organisation, *Sawar*, reaching a total of 110 women's right activists, students and women from civil society. An achievement worth mentioning as a result of WCLAC's following of developments with the Palestinian Union of Lawyers, is the signing of an MOU between the Union and WCLAC to begin a partnership to increase awareness among Palestinian lawyers of the concept of gender and the law, and to form a working group on gender in legal issues. This development will have a direct effect on the situation of women accessing the justice system since gender-discriminatory legislation and practices, and their critique, will be put on the agenda of the Palestinian Union of Lawyers. ***For more information, please refer to Appendix D.***

#### *Empower local women activists*

Building on an addition to WCLAC's awareness-raising activities in 2013 to include workshops for local women activists, in 2014 WCLAC's Documentation and Advocacy department conducted 2 information-sharing and awareness-raising workshops with local women's rights activists - one in the north in March for 2 days with 28 participants (6 male: 22 female) and one in the south in September for 2 days with 33 participants (9 male: 24 female), all members of UPWC. The first workshop focused on Personal Status Law and discriminatory legislation that impacts Palestinian women, as well as the Criminal Law and its shortcomings in protecting women from increasing rates of GBV, which concluded with attendees agreeing to redouble efforts to push for the adoption of the Family Protection from Violence Law. The second workshop focused exclusively on the current situation of Palestinian women in society and legislation impacting this. Observations and recommendations from these meetings included the need for psycho-social counselling for children in courts and the perspective held by some that the women's quota is an insult to women as it assumes inferiority and fails to address the structural and systemic problems leading to women being ostracized from 'official' politics. WCLAC perceives empowering local women who are politically and socially active on the need to reform laws applied in Palestine to be a key

strategy in improving the status of women in Palestine. ***For more details on the workshops, please refer to Appendix B.***

*Hold 1-day awareness-raising session with media professionals and the Palestinian Journalists syndicate*

In 2014, WCLAC conducted 2 workshops with media, law and sociology students from Birzeit University and Nablus University with the Palestinian Journalists syndicate. The workshops focused on the potential of the media industry to act as a driving force in combating legal discrimination against women and advancing women's issues. Workshops received very positive feedback from the students who stressed the importance of continuing the debate in their universities, to integrate this topic into their formal studies and to increase the number of students engaged in the dialogue. One of the workshops, covered by Television Palestine, discussed the report "Women who forfeit their lives", produced by WCLAC, which analysed articles covering femicide in the media over the year 2012. A number of recommendations to improve critical reporting were put forward by the students, to be taken up by media professionals. Despite these positive results, the coordination with the Palestinian Journalists syndicate and Head of Student Affairs within a restricted time frame presented a large obstacle. As such, attendance at the event was far lower than expected. WCLAC seeks to organize such events far in advance in order to avoid any such clashes and to leave time to promote the event.



*Participate in activities on International Women's Day (8 March) with partner organisations*

To celebrate and commemorate the role of women in the national and international arenas, WCLAC organized and participated in numerous activities during International Women's Day and the 16-days of activism against gender violence. On the occasion of International Women's Day, WCLAC organized 2 activities in collaboration with MoSA, GUPW and PNGO, centring on often neglected aspects of women's rights with a specific focus on the rights of disabled women; in Palestinian society disabled women face three-fold discrimination on the basis of ethno-religious identity by the Israeli authorities in addition to gender and disability-based discrimination. This makes physically and/or mentally impaired women a top priority for WCLAC. The first event highlighted the legal rights of women with disabilities including testimonies from women with disabilities, success stories, recommendations and a Q&A involving 58 people. A recommendation was made by Palestinian feminists and women's rights organisations to take positive action to include more disabled women on their boards. In the second event, WCLAC drafted a letter to the President, demanding the modification of articles 98 and 99 of the Jordanian Criminal Law which allow for lenient sentences against perpetrators of femicide. Additionally, WCLAC participated in 13 activities for International Women's Day including a women's march to Qalandia checkpoint organized by GUPW highlighting the role of the Occupation in violence against women in the OPT. ***For a complete list of activities on International Women's Day, please refer to Appendix E.***

*Participate in activities for the 16 Days of Activism on VAW (Nov-Dec) with partner organisations*

WCLAC launched the international 16-days of activism against gender violence by delivering a letter to President Abbas, congratulating the PA on a decision to sign a number of international agreements and treaties. In particular, WCLAC acknowledged the President for signing CEDAW without reservations, a step hailed as a legal precedent for the Arab World. WCLAC called upon the president to fulfil the commitment taken by the State of Palestine to work towards a society in which women play an active role and participate in an equal measure to men, by appealing to: 1) take all measures necessary for the implementation of the articles enshrined within CEDAW and their inclusion within the Palestinian legislative system; 2) prioritise the revision of national statutes so as to ensure that the Palestinian legal system conforms to international conventions, and 3) adopt CEDAW as a general framework with which to address the primary challenges affecting the realization of equality between men and women in all domains.

The official launch of the 16-day event which WCLAC attended was hosted by the Palestinian state military university in Jericho, from which a significant number of female military students graduate annually. The opening





drew attention to the negative implications of armed conflict on women and reinforced the role of women in peace building, citing UN resolution 1325. Aside from the official opening, WCLAC directed its attention towards areas of the West Bank most affected by the Israeli occupation, such as Beit Amin in the north of the West Bank and Al Jiftlik in the Jordan Valley, where a meeting was held with 18 women to discuss the problems they face on a daily basis due to the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation. Attention was drawn to mechanisms within CEDAW to submit a complaint in an attempt to facilitate some form of accountability for HR/IHL violations against women committed by the Israeli authorities.

Meetings to mark the international campaign to combat violence against women were also scheduled to be held in the northern villages of Beit Amin and Azun, however WCLAC experienced significant obstacles entering Azun since to enter the village one must obtain prior authorization from the Israeli Occupation administration, which is extremely hard to obtain. However, as planned, a meeting was held in Beit Amin with 18 women participants and which several women from Azun were able to attend. Testimonies of women's personal experiences of exposure to violence by the Israeli occupation forces were discussed, documented and archived to inform the alternative CEDAW report that WCLAC is preparing to submit to the UN in accordance with its ECOSOC status. Participants expressed that the most prominent violation of their rights is the Israeli military checkpoint, which severely restricts the movement of the village residents - to the extent that a number of women from the village were forced to give birth at the checkpoint, which in one instance lead to the death of the infant and in every instance, a deterioration in the mother's health. ***For more details and a full list of activities, please refer to Appendix F.***

*Participate in activities on other international and national landmark days*

Finally, WCLAC participated in a number of national events including Palestinian Prisoner Day and events related to the prisoners' "water and salt" hunger strike, to acknowledge the sacrifice made by Palestine's political prisoners, including 19 Palestinian women prisoners of conscience currently in Israeli jails. Additionally, the Centre participated in a vigil outside the PA Cabinet demanding the amendment of article 98 which was in fact amended subsequently as mentioned in our *highlights* section, and a rally organised by ICHR as part of the international day of persons with disabilities. ***For more details and a full list of activities, please refer to Appendix G.***

**Special project:** *AMAL - Supporting Women's Transformative Leadership in Changing Times in the Middle East and North Africa*

WCLAC is part of a three-year, multi-country, multi-organisation project, *AMAL*, to promote the active participation and leadership of women in the MENA region. *AMAL* has a special focus on poorer and more marginalised women in local, national and regional governance structures and decision-making processes. The project aims to ensure that the marginalised women have a say in the formulation of socio-economic policies and practice at all levels so that their needs and priorities are reflected in legislative reform. This project forms part of WCLAC's region-wide cooperation in which WCLAC is part of multiple Arab/MENA coalitions, informing the wider women's rights/feminist agenda in the Middle East. The project began in September 2012 and will end in September 2015. In September 2014, WCLAC held 2 workshops on women's political participation with groups in Nablus and Hebron (12 hours each), reaching a total of 49 women. The training focused on strategies for increasing women's political participation based on an exchange of information and experiences.

Group members reported an increase in practical knowledge, especially regarding key factors affecting the rate of success of women reaching senior-level, through listening to Palestinian women's real-life experiences of political participation. Furthermore, in October a workshop was held with 43 members of partner organizations (PWWS,

Miftah and Oxfam) to discuss an advocacy campaign plan prepared by WCLAC to be launched during year 3 of the project. The aim of this meeting was to establish one united voice across the various branches of the Palestinian women's movement, emphasizing the importance of increasing women's political participation at the decision making level. Group members reported that they benefited greatly from discussing the activities and clarifying certain details which would help in the implementation stage during the third year. The project experienced a couple of major obstacles this year as a meeting with President Abbas could not be arranged due to the unstable political and security conditions, especially in Jerusalem. This led Abbas to prioritise the security situation and postpone most other issues. Further, the killing of Ziad Abu Ein, Minister of the PNA Anti-Wall and Settlement Commission, on 12 December 2014, led to the postponing of the press conference to launch the advocacy campaign which was scheduled for late December. However, WCLAC continues to coordinate with GUPW and WATC to arrange a meeting with President Abbas on the campaign topic to be conducted prior to elections and an official letter has been sent to Mrs. Rida Awadallah, coordinator of the 1325 Coalition, to arrange this.

### 1.3 Build the capacity of service professionals and grassroots women's organisations to provide protection to women

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

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

Since 2005 WCLAC has worked with grassroots organizations in marginalized communities and remote areas of the West Bank in order to improve their capacity to defend Palestinian women's rights and to spread an awareness of the services available to them, should they require legal assistance or social counselling. As well as providing training and awareness-raising sessions for numerous organisations, WCLAC also has institutional partnerships with three grassroots women's organisations in less well-served parts of the West Bank. WCLAC supervises the legal and social service provision delivered by these partners to women in their communities, while at the same time building their organisational capacity to improve the quality and resilience of independent service providers.

In 2014, WCLAC continued to build the capacity of the service provision staff at TCS, a northern West Bank CBO located in the Jordan Valley (Area C). WCLAC conducted 4 general supervision meetings with TCS's finance and administration unit; a financial tracking system was introduced and staff members were trained on how to use it to facilitate systematic and transparent accounting. WCLAC conducted 8 training meetings with TCS socio-legal provision staff throughout the year to facilitate the continued development of their services; socio-legal counselling services to 63 women in Tubas and Jenin were supervised and 32 awareness-raising sessions in Tubas, Jenin, Atouf village, Far'a camp and Zababde village reaching 308 women were co-facilitated. Following recommendations to improve the content and style of presentations regarding the message and vision, WCLAC noticed a marked improvement in TCS staff's presentation skills subsequently. WCLAC supported TCS in the revision of 8 funding proposals in 2014, 3 of which were accepted. One concerned the setting up of a mobile legal clinic to facilitate the delivery of socio-legal services to women in the Jordan Valley; a second involved the economic empowerment of women through vocational training and a third, accepted in 2013 but formally approved by Riwaq in 2014, provided TCS with the financial capacity to renovate an old house and use it as premises for another 10 years. WCLAC continues to support TCS in improving their proposal writing skills in order to maximize their chances of success, and thereby the number of women they can provide with socio-legal services.

To promote networking with the local community, WCLAC supported TCS in the preparation and organization of an event to mark the occasion of International Women's Day. The event, attended by 120 participants, drew attention to the steadfastness of women living under extremely difficult circumstances in 3 villages in the Jordan Valley and honoured mothers who have lost children to the Israeli occupation as well as women who work the land. This event focused on women's legal rights regarding inheritance, focusing on social and legal challenges that limit women's access to their right to inheritance and flagging up the mechanisms available to women to

demand access to what is rightfully theirs. Further, WCLAC worked with TCS to organise a workshop involving 40 participants on UN resolution 1325 concerning women, peace and security and its significance for Palestinian women.

In 2014, WCLAC continued its partnerships with Women for Life (WFL) and Al Najdeh. WFL provides social and legal support to women in the central West Bank city of Salfit whilst Al Najdeh operates in Tulkarem. These partnerships were established to build the capacity of service provision staff and to monitor the quality of their work in order to help build grassroots organisations' capacity for self-management and sustainability. This, in turn, improves the quality and ensures the sustainability of socio-legal service provisions to marginalised women across the West Bank; a key objective to providing protection to women suffering or at risk of violence. In this light, a total of 30 hours of professional supervision for the legal and social work teams in the three grassroots organisations (including TCS) was conducted in 2014; including follow up on cases and awareness sessions this number increased to 60 hours. Activities included supervising and supporting cases of legal and social services.

Throughout the year, WCLAC's social worker conducted 6 supervision meetings (3 hours each) with 7 lawyers and social workers in Women for Life (WFL), Al-Najdeh and TCS, 3 of which brought the organizations together, thereby promoting an exchange of ideas and a culture of learning. Due to a lack of understanding around role specifications and the protocol for CSOs in Palestine, WFL faced significant challenges in 2014. WCLAC's role as a supportive body working in the same field was to bridge the gap between the administrative unit and the organisation's staff through a holistic work plan to ensure that the administrative body is run in accordance with Palestinian law. This was implemented through continuous over-the-phone support and supervision during an evaluation of their services, with WCLAC providing external supervision. WCLAC is currently planning further meetings for programmatic follow up, supervision of legal cases and training on reporting with WFL in 2015.

Al Najdeh likewise experienced a funding crisis over the reporting period and WCLAC took action to support the group, providing them with emergency funding and support in delivering services in Tulkarem, through on-going supervision. WCLAC and Al Najdeh came to a joint decision to intensify supervision and guidance of their counselling services – with the output: 31 women received socio-legal aid, 9 of whom had their cases taken to court. Further, Al Najdeh was supported through the supervision of 17 awareness raising sessions for women in Tulkarem and the surrounding villages and refugee camps on Personal Status Law and a wide range of other issues including the division of shared wealth and the different types of violence, as well as protocol for women's shelters in the OPT, conducted with the presence of Al Najda's lawyers and social workers. WCLAC's on-going support to grassroots organisations working with remotely located, hard-to-reach women informs our strategic aim to expand socio-legal services across the West Bank in to the most marginalised and isolated areas to make sure socio-legal services are as accessible as possible to as many women as possible.

### 1.3.2 Train state and non-state service providers in order to develop best practices in dealing with women victims of violence

#### *Promoting gender-sensitive professional practice among Shari'a court employees*

Building on a training course on women's marriage rights WCLAC held with Sharia court officials from the northern, southern and central West Bank governorates in 2013 - and at the request of the Public Prosecutor in the Sharia courts, who affirmed the need to continue such trainings – WCLAC carried out training with 89 Sharia court officials on how to use the national referral system for women victims of violence in August and September 2014. In particular, the training targeted employees from the Sharia court departments of reconciliation and family counselling from the north, south and central West Bank. It also included employees from all levels to widen the spread of Takamol, knowledge of it and its protocols. Despite previous efforts on the part of the Centre to include Sharia officials in training of state and non-state actors in the Takamol protocols in 2013, WCLAC found that 89% of participants reported that they did not know anything about the system. Further, it became apparent in the trainings that there was no standardized set of procedures – or any procedures - for how to deal with victims of family/marital violence by the judges and that there was almost no coordination between judges and the family counselling departments.



In order to reach more Sharia employees and spread an awareness of the Takamol referral system, WCLAC capacity building trainers distributed copies of the Takamol protocol manual for their redistribution among the different Sharia courts and introduced a list of all the institutions that work to protect women from violence throughout the West Bank. Training participants reported in the feedback sessions that the training was very fruitful in terms of coordination, networking and communication between the organisations that work in the field of protection from violence and that the system would bring the difference in perspectives between Sharia and public institutions closer together for the benefit of protecting women – and their children – from violence. Further, participants requested from WCLAC to translate the theoretical workshop into practical training, mentioning that Sharia courts do not receive the same level of support or funding from international organisations, unlike the civil court. In comparison to previous trainings, WCLAC noticed a significant improvement in Sharia employees' perspective towards women's rights - at least in terms of their right to be protected from violence. WCLAC considers this a success, since in the past Sharia employees have voiced resistance to ideas of the feminist and women's rights movement. ***For a full list of trainings on the Takamol national referral system, please refer to Appendix L.***

In November 2014, WCLAC held 3 workshops reaching 39 participants from Sharia courts covering all governorates of the West Bank, again targeting staff from the department of reconciliation and family counselling. During these training sessions, WCLAC capacity building staff presented the results of a study conducted by WCLAC in 2013 on women and inheritance law in the West Bank. This study highlighted the various issues women faced in Sharia courts when trying to obtain their legal right to inheritance and was followed by a discussion and presentation of case studies with participants. Several recommendations came out of this training regarding the rights in Sharia law: to concentrate on raising awareness of women receiving advice from the family counselling department as to their legal right to inheritance; to distribute the Sharia text on inheritance law for men and women in all Sharia courts; to set a time limit on inheritance – that it is not specified before 4 months passing of the deceased in order to make sure that there is time for the necessary procedures to take place and that women's right to inheritance receives equal opportunity to claim her inheritance, and finally that punitive measures for those who claim the woman's percentage of inheritance are enforced.

WCLAC is now working with the Sharia courts to make sure that these recommendations are discussed further and that the necessary preparations are taken to ensure their realization, which will in turn increase women's ability to claim their inheritance. These reforms proposed by WCLAC concerning Shari'a Court procedures to ensure the protection of women's rights are in line with WCLAC's strategic plan. The first stage of proposing reforms having been completed, WCLAC will seek to draft articles related to the aforementioned reforms, to be submitted to the High Judicial Council of the Shari'a Courts in 2015. ***For details, please refer to Appendix M.***

#### *Build the capacity of service providers*

WCLAC works within the framework of *Takamol*, a substantive referral system for women victims of violence, developed jointly by WCLAC and the health NGO Juzoor between 2009 and 2011 and adopted by the Palestinian Authority (PA) Cabinet in early 2013. The Takamol system allows for the activities of legal, social and health service providers to be fully integrated, ensuring that women have access to the most comprehensive and appropriate care available. In a 2013 evaluation of the system, state service providers to women victims of violence did not meet the standards of the Takamol system protocols. WCLAC responded by the preparation of a training programme to build the capacities of the service providers in the health, social services and police departments by conducting 3 5-day ToT courses, targeting 67 participants in northern, southern and central West Bank governorates in addition to providing support to the trainees of subsequently conducted trainings in the health sector, social services and the police.

The messages of the training covered: 1) deepening stakeholders understanding of the concept of GBV; 2) institutionalising a code of ethics for dealing with women victims of violence; 3) familiarization with indicators of sexual, psychological and physical violence and knowledge of how to evaluate the level of threat to the woman's life; 4) mechanisms for intervention across the various sectors and 5) skills for facilitating training. Recommendations which arose from the training included the need for: 1) on-going training to improve the skills

of professionals coming into contact with abused women; 2) continuous follow-up and supervision of services provided to women across the board; 3) a unified system of evaluation regarding intervention, follow-up and referral of cases; 4) an intensification of communication, especially with people in decision making positions within the sectors; 5) a field study on the needs of the health, social and legal services sectors on which to build a capacity building plan of action; 6) development of referral tools, mechanisms and protocols; 7) MoH to work on integrating the national referral system into the national health sector; 8) a national model for empowering women, and 9) better coordination and networking between the union of courts regarding *Takamol*. WCLAC is currently seeking means to put into action the recommendations of the training facilitators and participants in order to consolidate the system and ensure its full and effective implementation for the enhancement of the quality.

## *Strategic goal 2: Promote women's rights and combat negative practices against women*

2.1 Contribute to the development of gender-sensitive legislation and institutional policies that support, protect and empower women in the public and private spheres

2.1.1 Identify inadequacies within the judicial system related to cases of femicide and incest

WCLAC carries out on-going documentation of VAW - cases of femicide especially - in order to collate a strong body of data on which to base our advocacy strategies in lobbying for gender-sensitive legislative reform. It is universally acknowledged that in contexts of armed conflict, incidents and severity of violence against women increases. The structural violence inherent in the unequal power relations between the occupier and the occupied, those holding people under siege and the besieged - is reproduced in other spheres of social life where an unequal balance of power is found. This being the case, it is understandable though nonetheless deplorable, that the murder of women and girls within Palestinian society remains high. As a rule, WCLAC investigates all deaths of women and girls in the OPT, excluding those caused by the Israeli forces. Through this process, WCLAC recorded the total number of reported deaths of women and girls in the OPT as 27 in 2014 (11 in Gaza and 16 in the West Bank). Through investigating the cause of death, WCLAC found that five of these deaths were suicides and one was 'manslaughter', whilst at least 13 of the remaining 21 deaths were cases of femicide, often premeditated and carried out by a first degree relative. The apparent 'reason' for and cause of death for the remaining 8 cases remains unknown or under investigation due to previously mentioned obstacles (*see: Challenges*).

### *Document and follow-up on cases of femicide and incest as they proceed through the justice system*

WCLAC's documentation of a femicide programme experienced both major obstacles and great success in 2014 as although documentation staff experienced great difficulty in accessing information on cases from the PPO, the Centre became a national reference for numbers on violence against women and cases of femicide for the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS); a fact sheet detailing cases based on WCLAC's numbers was published on their website to mark international women's day (*see: Highlights*). However, despite the signing of 5 MOUs during the first half of the year between the Centre and services providers regarding cases of incest and femicide, WCLAC was unable to document any cases of incest in 2014 (*see: Challenges*). In spite of long delays and unresponsiveness on the part of the PPO however, communication was established to facilitate the attendance of court hearings on femicide cases and dates were arranged for WCLAC to attend court hearings in February and September for one case of femicide. WCLAC also held training with 6 lawyers from Nablus, Tulkarem, Jericho and Bethlehem to facilitate the initiation of documentation within the courts to analyse court procedures with an aim to identify inadequacies within the judicial system regarding cases of femicide and incest. The necessary arrangements have been made and this in-court programme will begin in 2015.

## 2.1.2 Propose reforms based on an analysis of existing legislation and institutional policies which have a specific impact on women's rights

With regards to legislative change in 2014, significant steps were made towards facilitating the democratic passage of the law when rival factions - Hamas and Fatah - formed a national consensus government which appears to be holding. This is in spite of the war on Gaza, internal disagreements within Fatah and the unstable security situation in the OPT due to the belligerent policies of the Israeli occupation which continues to persecute Hamas politicians and their supporters for their political affiliation. However, the PLC has still not yet convened since 2007 which means that change to legislation is both very slow and takes the debatably undemocratic form of amendments and revocations through presidential decree as occurred with amendments made to article 98 of the 1960 Jordanian Criminal Law in 2014. This article, in addition to articles 99 and 100, allowed for lenient sentences to perpetrators of femicide in so called 'mitigating circumstances'. So whilst amendments to article 98 through a disclaimer is a very positive step, advocacy efforts to pressure for amendments to articles 99 and 100 are still ongoing and a number of major obstacles regarding sustainable legislative reform are still pertinent (see: *Challenges*).

### *The Pension Law*

In 2014, WCLAC continued to work on its strategy to build a legislative environment that supports and protects women's rights and in March 2014 the Centre launched a publication in Arabic highlighting the discriminatory clauses in current social security, disability, retirement and banking legislation, with a comparison between Palestine and other Arab countries. In particular, 2014 saw WCLAC's attention focused on the Pension Law, which WCLAC believes should be applied equally to women and men. Building on an intensive research study conducted by WCLAC in late 2013 (included in the publication) that highlighted the violations of women's rights in the pension law, WCLAC further explored this research enquiry during the first half of the year with two study launches; the first meeting was held in the southern West Bank city of Qalqilya with 20 participants (4 male: 16 female), while the second meeting was held in the northern BW city of Hebron with 20 female participants – retired women, feminist activists, human and women's rights organisations, and GUPW members. The results of this booklet stimulated a heated debate at launch events and are being used as a reference on which to base WCLAC's advocacy strategies to improve the status of women in the law in the OPT.

During the study launches, WCLAC staff gave an executive summary of the methodology and main findings, highlighted specific topics for discussion and facilitated a Q&A with audience members with questions from the floor addressed by the board. This had the demonstrated effect of spreading knowledge of the findings of the study among key target audiences. The opportunity was also used to mobilise audience members to take action to advocate for legislative reform regarding women's status in the Personal Status Law. WCLAC is now moving into the stage of implementing a comprehensive advocacy plan to lobby the Pension Authority to make the necessary changes to the Pension Law so as to ensure its fair application, regarding both men and women as equal before the law.



## 2.1.3 Advocate for the passage of draft legislation that protects women's rights

### *Law on Family Protection from Violence*

WCLAC completed the draft of the Family Protection from Violence Law at the end of 2013. This draft was submitted to both MoSA and MoWA in order to put the new law on the agendas of the official legislative body and to make sure that it was put on the top of the ministries' action plans for discussion from both the procedural and the policy dimensions in 2014. Accordingly, the draft law was passed on to the legislative council within MoJ in order to facilitate the passage of a final drafting of the law before its formal ratification. Based on the results of

the meetings held by MoJ with numerous governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the field of women's rights and family protection, a decision was made to form a drafting committee comprising members from a range of different bodies working in the field to hold a final review process. As planned, the committee held its first meeting on 21 January 2014 in the HQ of MoJ with PNGO, PPO, EUPOL, MoWA and MoSA and these meetings continued throughout the year on a bi-monthly basis to facilitate the final drafting of the law which is due to be passed in the coming stages. Therefore, significant progress was made as to the passage of draft legislation that protects women's rights as the draft law went into its final stages of drafting before it is put before the Cabinet for formal ratification.

### *The Takamol National Referral System*

Follow-up of the Takamol national referral system for women victims of violence in the official referring bodies of the health, legal and social services took place throughout 2014 as the system came into its first year of official implementation on a national scale after it was passed by the Cabinet in late 2013. Meetings were held with Police Family Protection Unit on a quarterly basis and it was apparent that there had been some circulation of the uses and application of the system among the staff in the south, central and northern governorates. Yet weakness in application of the system and a gap between knowledge of the system and its usage was also demonstrated during these meetings. It was revealed in November that no official document explaining the protocol of the referral system had been shared with the health service by the MoH. Therefore, whilst specific people from each of the 3 sectors (health, social and legal services) who helped in its setting up have a good working knowledge of the system, and whilst an intensive ToT programme was carried out on the system in the early months of 2014, a lack of communication and sharing of information regarding the national referral protocol means that the system is far from consolidated. However, work is currently underway at WCLAC to address these shortcomings in the first phase of the system's rolling out across the West Bank.

### *The Criminal Law*

During the reporting period 6 meetings were held, where 50 of the 70 articles were discussed and modified where necessary. In the first half of the year, the Coalition on the Criminal Law, led by WCLAC, held a meeting to determine the status of adopting the Palestinian Criminal Law, where the current approaches of Civil Society Organizations and the required strategies were discussed in light of the increasing femicide cases. The coalition drafted and sent a letter to President Mahmoud Abbas calling for the adoption of the Palestinian Criminal Law and the modification of articles 98 and 100 of the applied Criminal Law in the West Bank. A breakthrough on this front occurred in the form of a presidential decree that modified article 98 of the applied Criminal Law, via the addition of a disclaimer clause: "*The perpetrator of the crime must not benefit from mitigating circumstances if violence occurred on the pretext of honour.*" Despite this significant move, there remain several obstacles to the full implementation of a Palestinian Penal Code since the PLC has not formally convened for the last 8 years. Hence, whilst amendments to laws may be made by presidential decree to have an effect on the ground, policy considerations must come hand in hand with such actions. What is more, WCLAC believes that the Penal Code must be agreed upon by all parties and that it should not be passed in the shadow of political factionalization.

### **Special project:** *Inheritance Denied: Promoting Palestinian Women Social and Economic Rights through Access to Inheritance*

WCLAC's work encompasses many different fields, including the access of Palestinian women to their social and economic rights. This necessitates advanced awareness of social and economic rights, particularly among marginalized and vulnerable women, in addition to a legal and political environment in which women's access to inheritance is protected. In May 2013, WCLAC embarked on an ambitious multi-partner project that seeks to promote women's access to their inheritance rights. The project is funded by the EU and is implemented by DCA, in partnership with WAC and YMCA. Working in partnership, WCLAC's work focuses on the advocacy component to develop a legal and political environment that protects and encourages women's right to inheritance. Following the formation of the National Committee to Ensure Inheritance Rights (NCEIR), comprising official and private sector institutions concerned with the right of inheritance, WCLAC established a coalition comprising

13 civil society organizations; this coalition will act as a mobilizer for change, advocating for women's rights in the different West Bank governorates.

1. *Local Palestinian communities' capacity has been increased to address women's inheritance rights:* This included the distribution of 1500 copies of inheritance law guidebooks and the implementation of 65 educational workshops with 1605 individuals in the West Bank and Gaza. 95.1% of Gaza participants and 96.7% of West Bank participants who responded to the post-training evaluation form said that raising their awareness was necessary and important, and 90.7% of the attendees in the West Bank who answered the post evaluation said that they will transfer the information obtained to other people in their surroundings.
2. *Awareness among state and non-state front line service delivery professionals has been increased to promote women's economic interests:* 3 gender trainings were conducted for 397 teachers and 2 open panel discussions were held in Salfeet and Ramallah with 182 attendees from different CBOs, the General Federation for the Disabled, Sharia Court employees and school teachers.
3. *Decision makers have been mobilized to promote the creation of a new department within the MoJ to ensure access to inheritance is guaranteed:* WCLAC's study on women's experiences of inheritance law was shared with WCLAC's partners and staff to gain their input. The study tackles the motives behind women's decisions to claim or not to claim their right to inheritance, methods of circumventing the law, the social impact on women choosing to claim their right, legal and procedural challenges, and the social and economic impact on women who are denied their right to inheritance. Finally, a first outline of the structure for the inheritance department was drafted by WCLAC's lawyer based on discussions with different stakeholders, and a meeting with MoJ is being arranged to discuss the structure of the inheritance department within the Ministry, and to garner support for changes contributing to a supportive environment for women choosing to claim their right to inheritance.

## 2.2 Advocate for Palestinian women's rights in cooperation with local and international networks and mobilise support for a culture of respect for women's rights

### 2.2.1 Engage with active networks and coalitions to support women's rights

WCLAC works within networks and coalitions to target national, regional and international decision-makers in order to affect essential legal and policy changes for women in Palestine. Coalitions are comprised of civil society actors, representatives from governmental bodies, members of political parties and other decision-makers. WCLAC also incorporates representatives from its volunteer clusters into the coalitions, thereby bringing the voice of the Palestinian community to the decision-making level. Participation, in turn, empowers volunteers with invaluable advocacy skills. WCLAC is a member in numerous local and international coalitions and networks including: 1) *National Committee for Women's Employment (NCWE)*; 2) *NGO Forum for combating VAW (Al Muntada)*; 3) *SALMA Network against violence against women in the Arab world*; 4) *AISHA Network (Arab Women's Forum)*; 5) *Arabic Network for Monitoring and Changing the Image of Women and Men in Media (ANMCWM)*; 6) *MUSAWA Coalition (Equality Without Reservations)*; 7) *Alimony Fund*; 8) *Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)*; 9) *Palestinian Forum for Safe Abortion (HEMAYA)*; 10) *National Coalition to implement Resolution 1325 in Palestine*; 11) *The Jerusalem Civil Coalition*; 12) *Juzour Network (political participation of women)*; 13) *The Arab Network for Human Rights and Citizenship Education Network (ANHRE)*; 14) *National Committee to Combat VAW*; 15) *Palestinian Council of Human Rights Organisations (PCHR)*; 16) *Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)*; 17) *Media and Rights Coalition to Ensure Implementation of Court Decisions*, and 18) *Primary Psychosocial Support Team (PRCS)*.

Two new coalitions were launched during 2014. The first was the Media and Rights Coalition to Ensure Implementation of Court Decisions which aims to shed the light on poor enforcement of court decisions through the media. The second new coalition is the Media Development Forum which aims to prepare a conceptual framework to develop an institutionalized media system in Palestine. It consists of media centres, newspapers,

media colleges, and women's organizations. Regionally, WCLAC participated in a two-day conference on Syrian Women Refugees and GBV organized by the SALMA & AISHA networks in Jordan. WCLAC is proud of its contribution to multiple national, regional and international coalitions and networks working in the field of women and the law, particularly in situations of armed conflict. We believe that we add a unique dimension to the regional and international scene due to Palestinian women's experiences of colonial practices and policies and military occupation which adds another layer to issues of GBV and discrimination. Further, during the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Women Palestine council meeting, WCLAC's late director was elected to the United Nations High-Level Advisory Group of the Global Study on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325.

#### *Council of Palestinian Human Rights Organisations (PCHR)*

This national Coalition, which spans Gaza and the West Bank, was formed in 2008 with WCLAC, Al Haq, the Centre for Rehabilitation of Tortured Victims, Defence for Children International and the Jerusalem Centre for Legal Aid. Its mission is to identify, monitor, document and publicise Israeli HR/IHL violations as a means to establishing accountability for the multidimensional violations due to Israeli policies in the OPT. The coalition also provides a channel to receive complaints from citizens. In 2014, WCLAC participated in 4 meetings with PCHR, during which WCLAC and PCHR jointly composed 5 letters and statements to condemn attacks on the BDS movement by the PA security apparatus; to support President Mahmoud Abbas in joining Human Rights conventions and treaties; to demand immediate action by the UN on the issue of Palestinian political prisoners on hunger strike; to encourage President Abbas to join the ICC, and to demand immediate intervention to terminate Israel's "Brother's Keeper" operation in a letter to the then EU High Representative of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton.

#### *National Committee for Women's Employment (NCWE)*

Formed in 2011 to work on improving policies that control the entry of women into the workforce, NCWE advocates for equal employment opportunities for women and combating discrimination against women in the workforce. The Committee, which the Cabinet recognised in 2012 as an official consulting body responsible for improving policies affecting women in the workforce, comprises 16 member organisations that include the Ministry of Labour, the International Labour Organisation and other governmental and non-governmental as well as national and international organisations. In 2014, WCLAC worked alongside UN Women to contribute to the drafting process of NCWE's new strategic plan for the next three years, partook in NCWE board elections and attended the launch of the finalised strategic plan in November, which it is hoped will work to strengthen the situation of women in the workforce in the OPT and to complement NGO work in the same field.

#### *NGO Forum for combating VAW (Al Muntada)*

WCLAC is one of 15 human and women's rights organisations that comprise the NGO Forum for combating VAW in the OPT. In 2014, WCLAC attended bi-monthly meetings with member organisations. Additionally, WCLAC attended a meeting with the general secretaries of Palestinian political parties in March at the PLO HQ where a document honouring the work of the forum was signed by the general secretaries of the various parties and presented to members of Al Muntada. WCLAC attended a special meeting presenting the strategic plan of the Forum and the role of the member organisations in implementing the specified activities. As part of Forum activities, WCLAC distributed factsheets which the centre prepared based on the documentation of cases of femicide in order to put pressure on the government to review and modify the Jordanian Penal Code as a temporary measure until the time comes when it may be replaced with a Palestinian Penal Code. Meetings were held with the PLC to discuss this matter, and in March a special meeting was held with PLO's Executive Committee and the general secretaries of Palestinian parties to launch a national campaign for the modification of the penal code, which was endorsed by PLO, multiple Palestinian parties and social and political figures. Finally, WCLAC participated in a large demonstration on 20 May in front of the Cabinet calling for amendments to the penal code as an intermediary measure.

#### *The Palestinian National Coalition on UN Resolution 1325*

In 2014, Palestinian human and women's rights organisations accelerated efforts to spread an awareness of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 locally. WCLAC worked with the national coalition to make the necessary modifications regarding the roles and responsibilities within the group; this led to a framework of understanding



regarding the national plan for resolution 1325. Further, WCLAC participated in special arrangements for the national conference on 1325 in Bethlehem. Several obstacles were faced including a repetition in the action plans between that of the National Coalition and that of a committee on 1325 affiliated to GUPW, and a lack of clarity regarding the scope of resolution 1325 in the OPT. These were overcome through group discussions on the resolution and a re-delegation of roles and activities with other groups also working on 1325. The result of this was an increased knowledge in the public sphere around the need to protect women in times of armed conflict and in particular, among the leaders of the national feminist movement – and a plan on how to utilize the resolution in the Palestinian context.

*Arabic Network for Monitoring and Changing the Image of Women and Men in the Media (ANMCWM)*

ANMCWM works to monitor and affect positive change regarding the image of women and men, in particular gender stereotypes, in the Arab World with branches in Jordan, Bahrain, Sudan, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon and Libya. In the first half of the year 2014, WCLAC joined ANMCWM in Cairo to contribute to the composing of the organisation's 2013 annual report. The organisation continued to spread an awareness of WCLAC's joint activities with ANMCWM and the other member organisations and honoured the Centre's input with the presentation of certificates to all employees of the Centre.

*Musawa Coalition (Equality without Reservations)*

WCLAC is a committed member of the Musawa Coalition, which works towards removing reservations of CEDAW articles in Arab countries and the signing of the convention by other Arab countries that have not yet joined. Member countries include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Palestine and Yemen. In 2014 WCLAC attended the periodic coalition meeting which took place in Marrakech with a press conference side event shedding a light on the coalition's role during the events as part of the International Human Rights Forum. As part of these events, WCLAC delivered a public presentation on achievements and obstacles related to CEDAW that took place in Palestine in 2014. Further WCLAC delivered training to members of the committee on advocacy of the UN Commission on the Status of Women to enhance women's rights in Lebanon.

*Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN)*

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) advocates for democratic reform and the strengthening of a culture of human rights within the framework of the Barcelona Principles and cooperation between the EU and Arab countries. WCLAC is a long-time member and active participant of the EMHRN Gender Working Group. In 2014, WCLAC participated in a discussion of advocacy messages and contributed to a review of the EMHRN advocacy paper, adding several modifications regarding HR/IHL violations by the Israeli Occupation to reflect the reality of women living in the West Bank, Gaza and '48 territories. Further, WCLAC participated in the review of a report on freedom of assembly in the Euro-Mediterranean region; some comments were added concerning recommendations, in particular highlighting the situation in Syria and its impact on women, especially the trafficking of women. WCLAC values its membership with EMHRN and puts a lot of time and effort into integrating the recommendations of the network into the work of the Centre. To download the report, Freedom of Assembly under Threat, please click on the following link: [http://www.euromedrights.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/FOA2014\\_PART-II\\_EN\\_REPORT.pdf](http://www.euromedrights.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/FOA2014_PART-II_EN_REPORT.pdf).

Further to this, WCLAC participated in the regional meeting with UN High Commissioner Office in Lebanon which centred on discussing methods of overcoming violence against women in the region and exploring types of violence women in the region are facing within the current unstable political situation. WCLAC enjoys strong working partnerships with local coalitions and networks whose interests overlap with WCLAC's and in 2014, WCLAC received an invitation from the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) to participate in a number of workshops on 'sexual harassment of women in the workplace'. During these workshops, WCLAC put forward a number of suggestions to develop a study conducted by AMAN on the topic which was later published. Subsequently WCLAC was invited to join the AMAN campaign, 'sexual harassment in the workplace is a crime.' The Centre participated in multiple meetings to organize the campaign and a documentary film on the topic is currently under production.



## 2.2.2 Increase coverage of women's rights issues in mainstream and social media

Throughout 2014 WCLAC produced 32 news articles and reports on VAW and femicide which were published in a large variety of media outlets - both printed and online - with an average coverage of 3 news sites per news piece, while some pieces enjoyed a wider coverage on 6 or more news sites. WCLAC has an interest in developing the media coverage of VAW and femicide cases, to break down taboo and stimulate dialogue on the issue in the general public. On this topic, WCLAC received an invitation from Birzeit University department for the advancement of media to attend two meetings on the issue of coverage of femicide cases by the local and national press. During these meetings, WCLAC suggested recommendations for improving coverage of femicide cases in the national press based on the Centre's extensive experience of monitoring, documenting and analyzing media cases, and distributed copies of WCLAC's previously printed report on this issue. ***For a full list of media publications produced by WCLAC, please refer to Appendix H.***

### *Build a network of media professionals that support women's rights*

WCLAC continues to target media professionals, students and graduates to promote an awareness of and support for women's rights. As a result, WCLAC trainees, often recent graduates starting out in their profession, go on to become advocates for women's rights within their fields of specialization, affecting positive change on the societal and institutional levels from within. In 2014, WCLAC targeted 26 media students from Al-Najah National University in a 3-day training course, with the aim of increasing the awareness of media persons in legal issues pertaining to women's rights, clarifying the prevalent societal stereotypes on women and emphasizing the potential of media to change these stereotypes. The training focused on concepts of gender, legal discrimination against women, particularly in the Personal Status Law and Criminal Law, and the efforts of Palestinian civil society organizations for legal reform.

WCLAC received positive feedback from the participants, who emphasized the quantity of acquired knowledge and skills in the training. Many recommended the repetition of such trainings to enrich their academic studies and highlight social issues. On another level, WCLAC conducted a 1-day workshop targeting 20 media professionals (16 female: 4 male) from a range of local and national outlets, with the aim of stimulating an exchange and discussion of experience among organizations and media professionals. This is of crucial importance in light of the recent events that indicate severe social deterioration, particularly in light of the increasing rates of gender-based violence, which can result in femicide. During the workshop, WCLAC's analytical report on the 2012 media archive was presented, focusing on the improvements in the media coverage of women's issues, but also highlighting the shortcomings of the media and future areas of work to develop a gender-sensitive coverage of social issues in general and women's issues in particular. The recommendations from the workshop included the need to continue the documentation of media coverage of women's issues, institutionalization of the documentation process and continuous analysis of issues from a gender perspective.

### *Write and publish materials about women's issues*

As per WCLAC's plan to increase coverage of women's issues in mainstream and social media in order to increase the sensitization of the public to women's issues, WCLAC wrote and published 3 articles on femicide cases and related developments. The articles received critical acclaim, vast distribution and positive feedback, such that one of the articles published on social media was read by 850+ individuals. ***For a complete list of written articles, please refer to Appendix I.*** Additionally, during the reporting period WCLAC published its annual newsletter for 2014, shedding light on GBV, femicide, legal reform, political participation and WCLAC's national advocacy. It was distributed during conducted activities, in meetings and to WCLAC's visitors. ***For a full list of WCLAC's media coverage in 2014 please refer to Appendix H.*** As well as producing articles on VAW, WCLAC also monitors coverage of VAW in the national media and a total of 62 articles on violations of women's rights were identified over the year, an alarmingly small number in comparison to the increasing rate of violations in Palestinian society. WCLAC also responded to requests from local media outlets for interviews on women's issues, such that WCLAC participated in 23 television and radio interviews with a focus on gender-

based violence, femicide, women's right to inheritance, Personal Status Law and its implications on Palestinian women, divorce and women's image in the media. *For a complete list of media interviews, please refer to Appendix I.*

#### *Develop WCLAC's electronic media tools*

WCLAC's documentation, advocacy and international advocacy units continuously update the Centre's websites in Arabic and English respectively, as well as WCLAC's other social media sites including facebook (3,100 likes), twitter (319 followers) and YouTube (4 subscribers). Updates include press releases and videos on conducted activities, job vacancies, articles, national issues and statements on landmark occasions. WCLAC's social media sites, their visibility and level of activity were evaluated in 2014 and WCLAC staff noticed that whilst the websites and facebook are regularly updated, the twitter site is significantly under-utilized and the YouTube channel requires promoting and professionalizing, with subtitles and translations. Meetings are currently underway to discuss the necessary steps to be taken and how to distribute them among the relevant units in 2015. In order to build advocacy initiatives to lobby local and international bodies, WCLAC continues to archive media coverage of violence against women in Palestine's three main newspapers (*Al Quds, Al Ayyam* and *Al Hayat*) and three online news agencies (*Ma'an, Wafa* and *Wattan*).

### 2.3 Empower youth volunteer networks to publicise women's rights issues within their communities

#### 2.3.1 Form and develop a network of volunteers that advocate for women's rights within Palestinian communities

##### *Support the volunteer clusters by providing regular monitoring and supervision*

WCLAC believes that meaningful change in favour of women's rights begins at the grassroots level. For this reason, WCLAC works with volunteer clusters to advocate for legal and policy reform and to grow an awareness of women's rights in underserved and marginalised communities throughout the West Bank. Volunteer mobilisation also empowers women (and men who support women's rights) with skills to develop their self-esteem, social status and voice in the public sphere. WCLAC supports teams of volunteers working in 5 locations to promote women's rights across the West Bank. Volunteers – a mix of male and female young professionals, typically with a specialisation in law, media studies or social work – organise and lead awareness-raising and advocacy events on women's rights in their local communities. These include information-sharing workshops on women's rights and gender issues, educational and recreational activities, and thought-provoking cultural events.

Through this network of volunteers, WCLAC is able to extend its reach, bringing its vision to isolated, hard-to-reach locations typically suffering a high level of violations due to the Israeli occupation. Volunteers in Ramallah and Hebron, typically with a degree in psychology or social work, have been trained in over-the-phone counselling and worked as helpline counsellors for the first half of the year. WCLAC held an intensive 30 meetings with new volunteers to introduce them to the Centre's programmes and invited them to much subsequent training in order to build up their knowledge of the Centre's work to the level of existent volunteers. In 2014, WCLAC delivered supervision to volunteers in the four locations over 22 periodic meetings through which volunteer work plans were developed. On a different level, 24 volunteers were nominated to lead activities with volunteers as mentors. In 2014, WCLAC continued to support the activities of 4 volunteer clusters in Hebron, Jericho, Bethlehem and Tulkarem totaling 151 volunteers (47 male: 104 female).

This year WCLAC recruited over 20 new volunteers owing to recommendations of WCLAC's current volunteers - a testament to their satisfaction with the volunteer programme offered by the Centre. WCLAC believes in the importance of targeting male volunteers in its programmes, and the number of male volunteers forms almost half of our total number of volunteers. WCLAC volunteers are highly committed to furthering the vision and message of WCLAC, demonstrated by high levels of participation and initiative with regards to attending and conducting WCLAC activities and retention – such that one volunteer has been with us for over 10 years. WCLAC's volunteer programme equips young people with essential transferable skills such as events organising and public speaking, and numerous volunteers report that a letter of recommendation from WCLAC has helped them to gain

meaningful employment. In November, the Centre hosted a central Annual General Meeting (AGM) with its volunteers in Birzeit which was attended by over 95% of the volunteers, during which volunteer clusters delivered oral and PowerPoint presentations on their achievements throughout the year. ***For a full list of meetings, please refer to Appendix K.***

*Build the capacity of volunteer groups*

In order to build the capacity of volunteer groups organising community activities, WCLAC held a 6-day training course in April on realising the aims of field work through introducing new techniques in facilitating activities, field training and designing programmes with 19 participants (6 males: 13 females) from all four target locations. Volunteers were selected based on a demonstration of will and desire to commit to a more intensive and responsibility-heavy programme. The course focused on communication skills, the stages and concept of training and how to practically implement these stages. In spite of an enriched training programme this year, volunteers voiced a need to further extend the training from 35 hours to 50 hours in order to allow time for designing training programmes to fully prepare them for autonomous field work in their local communities.



WCLAC tried to meet this need through extra supervision and over-the-phone advice to volunteers when needed in order to follow up on volunteers' implementation of the skills and knowledge they assumed through the training. Advice and suggestions offered to volunteers included improving their body language and group management skills by working in smaller sub-groups, delivering clear messages and deepening discussions. In addition to this leadership training programme, WCLAC conducted 18 training sessions for volunteers over 2014. Volunteer clusters are encouraged to develop ideas for community projects based on the results of needs assessments conducted by the volunteers in their communities. A total of 4 community projects were carried out by WCLAC volunteers in areas specifically chosen for problematic conditions particular to each location, such as marginalization or social or political isolation, or exposure to rights violations by the Israeli occupation forces and/or illegal Zionist settlers. The semi-autonomous nature of the projects and WCLAC staff's appreciation of the volunteers' skills and time gave the volunteers a reported sense of belonging to both the Centre and the projects, which were overseen over a series of 8 meetings (2 per project).

Volunteer projects this year included a summer camp for girls and their mothers in an isolated village in the Jordan Valley; a renovation project in three girls' schools in Tulkarem; a demonstration in Bethlehem on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March, and an exhibition of traditional and modern works of art produced by women in and around Hebron with more than 120 exhibitors. In addition to the four main community projects carried out, WCLAC volunteer clusters held a total of 65 activities and 8 media productions, reaching a total of 1900 participants (297 men: 1603 women). Other side projects carried out by WCLAC's volunteers included a vigil organised by Tulkarem volunteers for International Women's Day and a high quality film produced by Hebron volunteers on Palestine's first ever female heavy-load lorry driving instructor. In light of the increasing rate of VAW and GBV incidents including an alarming number of femicide cases this year, media volunteers from the 4 areas in the north, south, east and west, produced 8 media reports on the GBV and discrimination leading to the death of women and the importance of protection from violence which was aired on local radio and TV stations. ***For a detailed list, please see Appendix J.***

*Facilitating the creation of a network of local community organisations*

WCLAC has exerted great effort over the years to encourage the volunteer clusters to initiate and maintain partnerships with local community based groups, NGOs and local authorities. WCLAC has support volunteers to work with like-minded local partners in order to develop a network of community supporters who are committed to protecting and supporting women's rights. An additional benefit of these partnerships is that volunteers are able to reduce the costs of their activities by finding local support and community contributions, for example, such as meeting rooms and equipment or catering. Further, local communities are more likely to welcome the initiatives

and feel a sense of belonging to the project if there is strong support from local partners and familiar faces. In the past WCLAC has facilitated the signing of 4 MOUs with local community organisations such as the YMCA, Al-Quds Open University, and ICHR.

### Success Story: **Volunteers hold a Girls' Summer Camp in the Jordan Valley**

In September 2014, during the first week of the new school year, 3 female and 2 male WCLAC volunteers from Jericho and the Jordan Valley organized and ran a 4-day summer camp for 40 girls aged 8-12 and their mothers, in cooperation with the Women's Centre in Fasayil. Fasayil is a small village located in a highly sensitive area in the Jordan Valley; it is surrounded by Israeli settlements, with five settlements and an Israeli military base located within the village borders and three other settlements situated just outside the village to the north.

The summer camp - which combined creative activities including theatre, singing and drawing with workshops in skills such as first aid - was based on a needs assessment carried out by the volunteers several weeks before the event. The volunteers noted an alarming prevalence of GBV in the community. The violence they witnessed primarily took the form of limiting the development of girls and women by restricting their participation in social life – a practice which although common in conservative and patriarchal societies, volunteers felt was exacerbated by the militarization of their local environment and the constant threat of soldier and settler violence. To address this situation, WCLAC volunteers decided to hold a summer camp especially for girls and women. They also recruited a lawyer, social worker and psycho-social counsellor to whom the women could turn if they required legal or social counselling.

Girls were given the space to express themselves freely – away from the constraints of societal norms dictating how girls 'should' behave. They learned about their human rights both as children and as girls, the different types of gender-based violence and ways to protect themselves from it. The activities received positive feedback from the girls and their mothers, who spoke of the need for such activities in other villages in the Jordan Valley that face a similar situation, and the need to target the male population in future activities. WCLAC documented statements from some of the girls who participated in the summer camp and the volunteers who ran it:

*"I know what my rights are now. I learned what each right means by performing in a play about them."* Isra' Sawarka, aged 10 (participant)

*"On the first day many families were very suspicious and didn't allow their girls to attend the camp but after we spoke with them, they felt more at ease – so much so that the number of participants went from 15 on the first day to 100 on the third day and we had to turn some girls (and boys) away."*  
Anas Muhrabi, aged 24 (volunteer)

### **Special Project: Empowered Youth Volunteers and University Students Lead Community Change**



In 2014, WCLAC's capacity building unit integrated the Radio Listener Clubs (RLCs) advocacy tool developed by Oxfam Novib into the Centre's volunteer programme as an innovative method for affecting social change. Through listening to a radio soap opera dealing with a number of social issues and discussing each episode with WCLAC volunteers, participants would enhance their listening and reflection skills and stimulate discussion with the directed objective of bringing about a change in attitude regarding traditional stereotypes and social norms. 19 volunteers trained in the media material and methods of delivery formed four RLCs - three with their younger counterparts at Palestinian universities in Jericho, Tulkarem and Hebron and one in Bethlehem with local female social activists and a total of 40 awareness raising



sessions involving 60 participants, including 12 men, were carried out.

The sessions addressed issues such as the traditional perspective and the idea of the inferiority of women; women and the media; violence against women and sexual harassment, and women and decision making. WCLAC staff conducted in-depth interviews with a number of the RLC participants during feedback meetings held to gauge the extent to which their new awareness of gender-based violence had influenced their thoughts and behaviour. Analysis of some results of the pre and post questionnaires shows changes in participants' knowledge and attitude as follows: 63% of participants stated in the pre questionnaire, that divorce is an equal right for men and women. This perception significantly changed following participation in the RLC, increasing to 92% of participants stating that divorce is an equal right for men and women. This indicates that perceptions on who has the right to decide on separation and divorce changed among RLC participants. The pre questionnaires revealed that 46% of participants believed that violence against women is justified when it is done to preserve the family unity. Perceptions of these participants also changed as a result of discussions during an RLC, decreasing to 16%.

## 2.4 Advocate for Palestinian women living under the Israeli occupation

### 2.4.1 Highlight the impact of Israel's human rights violations on Palestinian women

WCLAC's International Advocacy programme was established to monitor and document the gender-specific impact of Israeli HR/IHL abuses in the OPT, to highlight the impact these violations have on Palestinian women's lives, and to work towards accountability. A total of 152 testimonies of women's experience of, sometimes extreme, violence at the hands of Israeli soldiers and settlers were documented by our team of experienced field workers in 2014: 38 in Jerusalem; 41 in Gaza; and 73 in the West Bank. This year, WCLAC conducted 62 targeted advocacy interventions, receiving a wide range of visitors - from law students and journalists to politicians and trade unionists - who were accompanied on field trips to listen to women's stories of life under occupation. These field trips included attendance at military court hearings where delegations met with the families of defendants to hear first-hand about their experiences of military occupation law. A special advocacy initiative was set up this year in which a monthly schedule detailing every incursion by the army into one village near Ramallah was documented for six months non-stop. This revealed some shocking facts about life in that village. These facts were used to shed light on the disruption to normal life by "routine" army operations in Area C, where night raids are as common as one every other night. Results of this study can be found on our website by typing the name of the village, *Deir Nidham*, into our search bar.

In 2014, WCLAC's international advocacy unit staff undertook a 6-country advocacy tour around Europe and North America targeting leaders of faith-based organizations to raise awareness at the international level of violations of women's fundamental rights at the hands of the Israeli occupation and siege authorities. Additionally, WCLAC contributed to numerous conferences, regional consultations and trainings. For example, WCLAC's international advocacy Project Coordinator took part in the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women held at the United Nations headquarters in New York in March 2014. WCLAC made the most of the opportunity and initiated a private meeting with Ms. Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. The UN Special Rapporteur subsequently announced she would conduct an official county visit to Palestine and WCLAC began preparations for the official visit scheduled to take place in January 2015 (*N.B. This notice was cancelled due to a lack of cooperation on the part of Israel. For more information, see WCLAC's public statement on the subject: <http://www.wclac.org/english/etemplate.php?id=1444> ).*

#### *Conduct advocacy activities using innovative tools*

In other developments, WCLAC's archive of 'Women's Voices' continued to expand this year, with a total of 119 'voices' publicised in 2014. Women's testimonies of human rights violations by the Israeli authorities were posted on our website, facebook page and twitter account and disseminated among friends and partners in the form of a monthly bulletin. Issues documented included home demolitions and denial of residency rights, poverty, identity card complexities, arrest of minors, settler and soldier violence and night raids, and restrictions on access and

movement. This year testimonies also included harrowing accounts of women's experiences of the hostilities in Gaza, some of which indicate that women and children were deliberately targeted. WCLAC's international advocacy work featured in a number of articles, radio and television interviews and a total of 13 public statements highlighting key issues affecting women's human rights were drafted and publicised domestically and internationally. These can be found on our website ([www.wclac.org](http://www.wclac.org)) under 'public statements' on the 'publications' tab. Testimonies from our 'Voices' project can be found on our website under the 'resources' tab.

Other media and literature produced this year:

- In September 2014, WCLAC produced a report on Jerusalem: Its past, present and future. The report was entitled "Jerusalem: A City Divided". To access the electronic version of the report, please follow the link: <http://www.wclac.org/english/flip/jerusalem-cd/index.html>
- WCLAC contributed to a documentary entitled "Stone Cold Justice" dealing with the effects Israeli military occupation law on women and children in the OPT. To preview this documentary, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-4kr59sbgE>
- A paper entitled "Crows on the Cradles: Palestinian Mothers at a Frontline Vortex - reflections on the Psychology of Occupation" co-written by WCLAC International Advocacy staff was published in the International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies: <http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/onlineLibraryTPS.asp?DOI=10.1002/aps.1393&ArticleID=1289018>

*Empower women whose rights have been violated by the occupation to advocate for their own rights*

Field visits proved to be the most effective form of advocacy by far, with long-lasting effects and an impact that will not easily fade away. Nothing can beat the combination of a human story and a human face with facts on the ground and eye-witness accounts. Palestinian women, especially mothers, are outspoken advocates on behalf of all Palestinians. Their modesty, combined with an acute recollection of the details and a conviction that telling their stories will make a difference, made field visits one of the most effective ways to influence WCLAC delegations, from across the political spectrum. Additionally in 2014, strong strategic alliances were built with local and international organizations working in the field of advocacy and human rights. Through these strategic partners, complementary work including joint advocacy activities and access to a wide range of audiences was made possible, enabling the team working on this project to expose WCLAC's work to a diverse pool of advocacy targets.

Further to this, joint advocacy activities conducted in collaboration with a group of partners including the Council for Arab and British Understanding and Extend amplified the voice of WCLAC on the international level and added credibility to our work. An increasing amount of time and effort is being put into engaging with influential world leaders with a focus on a number of specific issues such as the impact of night raids and the arrest of minors on women and the family. This strategic approach to advocacy efforts is proving to be a success since the audience's attention is drawn to a specific subject and they are given a small set of objectives to focus on when engaging with policymakers in their own countries. One such example was the calling for an end to night-time arrests, a demand that is currently being echoed by louder voices than ours including international organizations, worker unions and parliamentarians.

#### 2.4.2 Build the capacity of local human rights activists to advocate on behalf of Palestinian women

*Develop a mentoring programme to train young Palestinian advocates*

WCLAC undertakes to train local human and women's rights activists to advocate on behalf of Palestinian women through a series of on-the-job trainings whereby activists are supported by professional field workers and an experienced field work coordinator to become fieldworkers themselves. The added benefit of this is that activists tend to be dedicated to their work since they are propelled by an inner conviction. What is more, WCLAC activists tend to come from the vicinities in which the rates of rights violations by Israeli authorities are high, offering invaluable local knowledge. WCLAC's team of highly qualified and dedicated female field workers continued their vital work as the eyes and ears of WCLAC's international advocacy programme in 2014 – yet not without a price. Fieldworkers often took personal risks to reach out to women in isolated and remote areas, including women

living in the shadow of settlements or in areas like Jerusalem and Gaza where tension is high and military combat activities were conducted this year.

WCLAC noticed that the interviewing and writing skills of field workers improved substantially during the past year. This was made possible with the presence of a qualified fieldwork coordinator who played an instrumental role in raising the standard of the evidence collected from the field and in training and motivating the field workers. WCLAC's evidence-based international advocacy programme reached new levels of effectiveness over the past 12 months with key target audiences taking up our calls for example, to put a stop to night raids, and advocating for them internationally. Many delegations are referred by previous groups who have participated in WCLAC's advocacy trips in the OPT, thus demonstrating that previous delegations benefited from our interventions. The quality and quantity of the statements collected and the advocacy activities conducted have improved substantially. New audiences including the American Jewish community were sought, and innovative and original advocacy tools - such as participating in documentaries - were regularly utilised. Most importantly, the voices of Palestinian women have been amplified whilst work continues to steadily empower and equip women to increasingly become effective agents and advocates in their own right.

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

#### 3.1 Enhance the efficiency of WCLAC's internal operations

##### 3.1.1 Improve WCLAC's internal policies, procedures and practices

In 2014, WCLAC's General Director, Director of Finance and Administration and Human Resources Coordinator conducted an initial review of the Centre's incentives policy. Due to the complexity of this process and to ensure the development of an applicable policy that satisfies the needs and aspirations of the staff, all staff members will be integrated in to this process. The first draft of the policy is consistent with the Human Resources Manual and the staff appraisal process. The final draft will be developed via a participatory approach in the beginning of 2015, to be delivered and approved by our board by mid-2015. With the support of DCA, WCLAC began work to develop and institutionalise a complaint mechanism in 2014. An accountability framework has been drafted to form the base on which to develop our complaint mechanism. The complaint mechanism will be implemented to cover internal and external complaints. This means that complaints could be processed from clients, staff, partners and stakeholders. WCLAC will work to finalize this mechanism along with its new strategic plan (2016-2020) to be approved by WCLAC's board and to be fully functioning by the second half of 2015.

##### 3.1.2 Enhance WCLAC's programme and information systems

WCLAC's monitoring, evaluation and documentation strategy utilises the means of a Management Information System (MIS) to keep track of provided services, implemented activities and events. During the reporting period, the service unit inserted all relevant information on social and legal cases into the MIS. This process institutionalized our client database, facilitating professional service delivery and monitoring and reporting procedures. Working with this system allows for its on-going evaluation and the determination of which parts are needed and which parts need to be developed. In this sense, WCLAC seeks to develop the MIS to best serve analysis of cases and data. However, the system requires more (costly) updates to make it more user-friendly which will in turn ensure that all information is securely entered in accordance with the procedures and that no repetition of data or erasure of data occurs. This will help us to develop our interventions and monitoring systems.

WCLAC is still in the process of developing documentation, archiving and removal methods of old and sensitive hard copy files of clients from previous years who benefitted from social and legal counselling. The unit will



design a manual of procedures on how to deal with these issues to be approved and distributed to the team for testing and final approval in 2015. Moreover, in 2014 the service unit procedures manual was reviewed and developed by unit staff members; definitions were developed and intake procedures clarified and types of cases and intervention mechanisms were clarified. The final draft will be sent to board of directors for approval in February 2015. On another level WCLAC started preparations for its 2016-2020 strategic plan through a rapid assessment of the current strategy. This was done in cooperation with *Gender at Work* through preparing questionnaires to collect information from staff, board of directors, clients, stakeholders and partners. Results will be analyzed to create a baseline for the new strategy and inform us about potential areas requiring intervention.

#### *WCLAC Library*

WCLAC's library facilities are constantly being improved and updated, with media reports on women's rights violations and GBV at the hands of the occupation and community systematically archived. During the reporting period, WCLAC staff entered 174 new books electronically on the LibSys data entry system and another 50 books manually. Library staff printed 240 catalogue numbers and 240 barcodes, adding them to new books and replacing old numbers to aid with indexing. The libraries in Ramallah and Hebron were visited by 177 individuals (145 women: 32 men; 90 external: 87 internal; 158 Ramallah: 19 Hebron), including researchers, attorneys, social workers, media professionals, feminist activists and university students. The visitors utilised WCLAC's various resources, with special focus on legal empowerment of working women, domestic violence, femicide, political participation, Personal Status Law, social and economic rights, women's rights violations at the hands of the occupation, incest, social security and the Palestinian Penal Code. In 2014, the Ramallah library staff also undertook to disseminate copies of WCLAC's publications to the libraries of academic research institutions and human rights bodies. WCLAC's library staff participated in 6 external events and showcased WCLAC's publications at exhibitions in Al-Quds and Birzeit University, as well as during the memorial service of feminist activist Issam Abdul Hadi, a UN Women event on the 16 days of activism on violence against women, International Book Fair and Europe Day.

### 3.2 Empower WCLAC staff to excel personally and professionally

#### 3.2.1 Implement training for staff and develop working practices which meet staff needs

WCLAC believes in the need for periodic staff performance evaluations to determine the strengths and weaknesses of our employees, with the aim of building upon strengths and addressing weaknesses via constructive discussion sessions. All staff members were evaluated in 2014. Upon completing the staff appraisal process, management had some comments and recommendations to improve the appraisal process and the staff feedback forms. An updated form was sent to all middle and top management staff to discuss the suggested changes. An improved form was finalised before the end of 2014 to be put to use in 2015.

#### 3.2.2 Promote critical thinking about women's rights discourse amongst WCLAC staff

In 2014, the first day of the second part of the staff retreat (*Living and Practicing Our Values, Deepening Our Relationships, Creating Change*) in December 2014 was reserved exclusively for critical thinking around concepts and principles of feminism. This was facilitated by WCLAC's dedicated long-term volunteer, Margo Okazawa-Rey, Professor Emerita in gender and ethnicity at San Francisco State University. WCLAC believes in the ongoing development and capacity building of its staff to contribute to develop our interventions and impact. A three-day team building training and retreat was conducted in Amman, Jordan in May to contribute to improving mutual understanding between employees that joined WCLAC recently and relatively old ones with WCLAC's mission and vision. This also included revising methods of building the capacity of WCLAC's team to effectively participate in achieving the vision and mission. The team defined three themes to be thoroughly discussed beyond the course of the training: mutual trust within the team, providing feedback as a means of coaching and mentoring and decision-making principles at WCLAC.

One 2-day training on respectful confrontation was also delivered during 2014 with the participation of 20 staff members from all four Centres and the Emergency Shelter staff. This training provided methods and techniques that employees can utilize to improve communication with their colleague to confront messages or ideas in a respectful manner. Another two-day team building retreat was conducted aiming to follow-up on recommendations of the first retreat in Amman. This retreat focused developing communication skills and the practice of 'generative engagement' at work. The result of this second retreat was the formation of 4 thematic working teams with facilitators responsible for addressing issues and recommendations that can better develop our work.

WCLAC staff is working to develop steps to enhance our work under these three themes. A third phase will be conducted in March 2015 to finalize the working steps and to be agreed with all staff. These recommendations will also be taken to discussion while developing the new five years strategic plan. Two staff meetings were conducted on Feb 1st and June 14th 2014, aimed at creating a more positive working environment at WCLAC. The first meeting was a one day retreat conducted at the house of the Director General in Jericho where the team discussed future plans and progress in a very employee-friendly environment. The second staff meeting aimed to contribute to preparing the media and advocacy strategy where the team managed to select topics and themes that WCLAC need to focus on in order to carry out its advocacy plan. A team was selected to further follow-up analysis around these themes through analysis of the audience and decision-makers, in addition to defining a preliminary action plan to be shared and discussed with the team. The Director of Programs paid close attention to the needs of the staff to discuss issues and ideas, following the open door open policy since she joined WCLAC. The Director of Programs also attended units meetings to better understand specific progress, obstacles and plans related to each unit and to better contribute to creating a mutual understanding of our work in line with WCLAC's mission and vision.

### 3.3 Improve WCLAC's financial sustainability

#### 3.3.1 Maintain a diversity of funding resources

In order to maintain all current relations with WCLAC's donors and to keep them engaged in our activities, the external relations unit maintains communication with partners and donors through mailing lists, bulletins, and success stories. WCLAC continues to organise and accompany our donors on field visits to our programme sites. The unit provides specialised, tailored reports for project orientated donors and in 2014, 10 general reports and 14 special reports were prepared. This is a significant increase on previous years, with some of the reports taking a considerable time to prepare administratively. Despite this, donor feedback remains very positive, and WCLAC is able to cope with the new requirements, delivering high quality reports on time. WCLAC also held its annual donor consortium meeting at its Ramallah offices, and accompanied donors in a total of 5 field visits throughout the year.

##### *Develop and diversify relations with new donors*

WCLAC has worked to diversify our sources of funding on the local, regional and international level in order to cope with the many of the challenges WCLAC continues to face as a result of the last financial crisis. Challenges include the fact that there is now much less funding available, more competition, less core funding and a strong shift in donors' policies towards special projects instead of programme funding. This has a significant impact on the ability of the Centre to meet its ambitions and the clients' needs. This is a huge obstacle for the external relations unit as it faces difficulties in fundraising for core funding and thus is forced into fragmenting WCLAC's strategy into special projects. This comes with a whole set of other consequences, with some parts of WCLAC's core not being covered and the organisational structure of WCLAC (for example in terms of staffing) being continuously challenged. WCLAC has taken several measures to limit some of the negative impact of special projects funding by trying to submit proposals that include core costs and current staff, yet this remains a challenge.

Despite these obstacles however, WCLAC has been successful in developing new funding opportunities. One

positive development is that WCLAC has started to target more Arab funding. WCLAC has also joined Donor Direct Action (DDA), which is a platform where private individuals or organizations can donate online towards WCLAC activities. This is still a relatively recent initiative and has so far shown to be quite effective, with 6564 USD raised in 2014. The link to 'donate' to DDA is now available on the WCLAC website. Finally, WCLAC is proud to receive very positive feedback on the quality of its proposals, and still enjoys a good reputation as one of the leading women's organisations in Palestine. WCLAC is still able to attract new funders despite the difficult economic situation and 5 new funders were found in 2014. WCLAC now receives funding from the IHL HR Secretariat and Women's World Day of Prayer. WCLAC's current number of funders stands at 13 (down one from the beginning of 2014). Additionally, WCLAC rents out the facilities of its resource center in Beit Jala, Dar Makhoulf, including the conference hall and rooms. These facilities are hired for workshops, exhibitions, films screenings and regular meetings.

WCLAC has maintained close relations with the following financial supporters and international project partners – some of which have involved on-going funding partnerships and others smaller joint project work or simply discussions of prospective partnerships: Open Society Institute, Caritas Switzerland, UNDP Rule of Law Program, Dan Church Aid, The Representative Office of Norway, Bread for the World, Consulate General of France Jerusalem, Oxfam Novib, HR/IHL Secretariat, Broderlijk Delen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iceland, Government of Canada (CIDA), Women's World Day of Prayer, Oxfam Novib/ SIDA: Transformative Leadership Project, EU/DCA: Inheritance Rights EU/Oxfam Novib: East Jerusalem Project.



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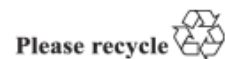
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WCLAC enjoys UN Special Consultative Status



*Appendix A: Awareness raising workshops for vulnerable women*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner (where applicable)</b>	<b>Group and number attending</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>No. of sessions</b>	<b>No. of one-time legal consultations and referrals to WCLAC</b>
<b>SOUTH</b>					
<b>Hoosan village</b>	The Rural Women Development Society	15 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; domestic violence; showing of the play “Kafa” on femicide; violence; types of violence; marriage rights; family breakdown; femicide; evaluation and conclusion	7	10
<b>Yatta</b>	Nirsan Cultural Center	24 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; help-line; violence; types of violence; violence based on gender; sexual assault; custody; alimony; marriage rights; evaluation and conclusion	6	15
<b>Samou</b>	Samou charity	18 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; violence; types of violence; the cycle of violence; procedures which must be followed to stop the violence; sexual assaults; femicide; marriage rights; alimony; evaluation and conclusion	6	5
<b>Al- Khader Village</b>	The Rural Women Development Society	24 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; early marriage; Personal Status Law; marriage rights; violence against women; violence against children and its impact on the family; domestic violence; femicide; evaluation and conclusion	8	10
<b>CENTRE</b>					
<b>Deir Jarir village</b>	Deir Jarir woman society	17 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; introduction in international and national laws; Personal Status Law; marriage rights; evaluation and conclusion	6	4
<b>Al – jeep village</b>	The Rural Women Development Society	18 housewives	Introduction and needs assessment; divorce; inheritance; the effective institutions in the provision of services for women and how to use them; evaluation and conclusion	4	-

**Appendix B: Awareness raising activities for women activists**

Location	Target group	# of Participants	Subject
Nablus	The Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committee	28 ( 22F; 6M)	Paper display on the realities of Palestinian women; Palestinian women in the Personal Status Law; the Criminal Law and Law on Family Protection from Violence.
Bethlehem	The Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committee	33 (24F; 9M)	Workshop for 2 days on Palestinian women and legislation

**Appendix C: Workshops for students**

University	Topics	No. of participants	No. of hours
<i>Al- Quds University</i>	Concept of gender; Palestinian women in the Personal Status Law & Criminal Law; mechanisms to protect women through laws and procedures; CEDAW; evaluation and conclusion	20 ( 11F; 9M)	20
<i>Birzeit university</i>	Concept of gender; Palestinian women in the Personal Status Law & Criminal Law; international human rights instruments and international treaties concerning women's rights, CEDAW; mechanisms to protect women through laws and procedures; evaluation and conclusion	21 ( 14F; 7M)	20
<i>Hebron university</i>	Concept of gender; Palestinian women in the Personal Status Law & Criminal Law; CEDAW; mechanisms to protect women through laws and procedures; evaluation and conclusion	24 (20F; 4M)	20
<i>Arab-American University, Jenin</i>	Concept of gender; international Bill, CEDAW; Palestinian women in the Personal Status Law & Criminal Law; mechanisms to protect women; evaluation and conclusion	38 (26F; 12M)	20
<i>Al Istiqlal University, Jericho</i>	Concept of gender; international Bill, CEDAW; Palestinian women in the Personal Status Law; mechanisms to protect women; the National Referral System Takamol; the Law on Family Protection from Violence; evaluation and conclusion	22 (10F; 12M)	20
<i>Al Tireh College</i>	Special protection for Palestinian women living under the Israeli occupation; international conventions & women rights under the Israeli occupation; Personal Status Law; violence and its effects on women; Criminal Law; evaluation and conclusion	44 (female)	15

<b><i>Vocational College, Beit Jala</i></b>	Introduction and needs assessment; a historical overview of legal development in Palestine; reception cases mechanism in WCLAC; early marriage; marriage rights; alimony; divorce; violence; the intervention mechanisms with cases; sexual assaults; evaluation and conclusion	29 (female)	15
<b><i>Society of Inash El Usra</i></b>	Introduction and needs assessment; violence based on gender; special protection for women; marriage; divorce; inheritance; Personal Status Law; showing movies about women's rights and social reality; violence and its effects on women; Criminal Law; evaluation and conclusion	25 (female)	15
<b><i>Vocational College, Hebron</i></b>	Marriage rights; sexual assault; alimony; evaluation and conclusion	22 (female)	15

***Appendix D: Awareness raising activities with partner groups***

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Nablus	Public Prosecution and the United Nations for Women	Prosecutors	20	The role of Public Prosecution in cases of violence against women
Ramallah	Public Prosecution and the United Nations for Women	Prosecutors	11	The role of Public Prosecution in cases of violence against women
Jerusalem/ old city	Palestinian Medical Relief Society	Housewives	5	Awareness about the types of Sharia courts and the jurisdiction of these courts, the protection mechanisms; divorce, marriage rights
Palestinian Bar Association	Palestinian Bar Association	University students	30	Sexual abuse; showing of the play “Mena w Fena”
Hebron	Tawasol Center	Service providers	15	Investigation and reception
WCLAC/ Hebron office	Temporary International Presence in Hebron	Department responsible for gender	2	Coordinate the work with Temporary International Presence
WCLAC/ Hebron office	Sharek Youth Forum	Department responsible for gender	1	Cooperation & Coordinate the work
Sharek Youth Forum/ Hebron	Sharek Youth Forum	Young workers in the counselling institutions	21	Definition of Women’s Centre for Legal Aid & Counselling
Tawasol Center	Tawasol Center & Ministry of Women's Affairs	Young workers in the counselling institutions	18	Training on Takamol Project
WCLAC	Organized by WCLAC	Employees in government and non-governmental	20	Discussion of pension laws applicable in Palestine

		institutions		
WCLAC	Organized by WCLAC	Media professionals, and women delegates from feminist organizations	20	Discussion of the stereotyped image of women in the media
Hebron	Ministry Of Information	Media professionals	26	Training media in dealing with women's issues, especially killing cases
WCLAC	A number of women's and human rights organizations, and the General Union of Palestinian Women.	Feminist and human rights organizations	8	Follow-up on the issue of the killing of girls, legally, socially and psychologically, and follow-up to popular action towards the issues of the killing of women
WCLAC	Feminist and human rights organizations	Feminist and human rights organizations	24	Follow-up to popular action on the issues of the killing of women
Beit Sahour	Health Work Committee	Doctors, gynecologists and social workers	13	Mechanisms of intervention and conversion with women victims of violence
WCLAC/ Hebron office	Institutions that provide services for women	Service providers	20	Discuss the proposed draft of the Council of Family Affairs
WCLAC/ Hebron office	Basque organization	Spanish Feminist delegation	6	Definition of WCLAC and its programs
Women's Studies Centre	Institutions that provide services for women	Professional staff	20	Discuss the role of various institutions in Support project "women and loss"
Adwar Center/ Hebron	Feminist and human rights organizations	Professional staff	20	Approval of the reference paper for the Council of Family Affairs
Bethlehem	Gathering institutions Bethlehem	Professional staff	16	Develop vision and mission for the Gathering institutions
Ministry of Higher Education/ Halhul	Health Directorate, north of Hebron	Young graduates on the verge of marriage	25	Marriage contract
Doha's municipality Hall/ Bethlehem	The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development – REFORM	Representatives of institutions, media professionals, university students	30	Awareness-raising session on increasing the social protection level of marginalized groups
Attorney General's Office	WCLAC in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office	Prosecutors	15	Workshop on inferred indicators of violence and levels of risk for women who go to the prosecutors, and discussion on how to deal with these indicators in order to protect and assist these women
Birzeit University	Students Affairs/ Birzeit University	Birzeit University students (female and male)	17	Personal Status Law; the right to inheritance



Birzeit University	Students Affairs/ Birzeit University	Birzeit University students (female and male)	45	Criminal Law; femicide
Al- Sear association	Al- Sear association	Workers and volunteers in the association	23	Workshop on how Jordan's legal heritage impacts on the status of Palestinian women in the occupied West Bank
Al-Esraa association/ Jericho	Legal Clinic/ Al Istiqlal University	Women's from the city	25	Personal Status Law; women rights

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
Hebron cultural forum	Organized by WCLAC	Honoring a group of women who have defied and overcome the difficulties to complete of several tasks at the level of self, family and community	Women, WCLAC volunteers, delegates from institutions in the province	50
Bethlehem Municipality	Bethlehem development Foundation	Presentations by a number of women's organizations and Bethlehem Municipality, and presentation by one of the WCLAC staff On the criminal law	Women's Organizations, Housewives, men	20
Beit Sahour /Alsous hall	Beit Sahour Municipality	Attend a ceremony on the honor of International Women's Day on 8th March	Women	500
Beit Umar / Hebron	The Center for Freedom and Social Justice	Showing the suffering of women in marginalized areas	Women, Governor of Hebron	25
Women's Center, Aida Camp	UNRWA	Awareness-raising workshop on Personal Status Law	Housewives	7
Governor's Office/ Hebron	Action Aid	Showing the suffering of women in marginalized areas	Women from marginalized areas	30
Old city/ Hebron	The Association of women's Action	Solidarity with one of the women	Women from marginalized areas	30
Royal Hall/ Hebron	Palestinian Businesswomen's Association (ASALA)	Attend a ceremony Asala association	Women, delegates from institutions in the province	25
Center for the happiness of childhood	Health Work Committees	Attend a ceremony on the honor of International Women's Day on 8th March	Women, delegates from institutions in the province	35
Cesar Hotel/ Ramallah	The NGO Forum on Violence Against Women (Al Muntada)	Awareness-raising workshop on women's access to justice, thier prospects and obstacles faced	Government institutions and civil society organizations	35

Office of the Governor of Jericho	Ministry of Women's Affairs and "Tawasol" Center	Sign a document to protect women from violence	Office of the Governor of Jericho	35
"Alaaz'a" refugee camp/ Jericho	The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development – REFORM	Workshop on promoting community participation of women in the camp	Women from the camp	26
Youth Club Hall /Tubas	Tubas Charitable Society	Participate in a workshop on "inheritance"	A number of community institutions in the province and women activists	35 ( 25F; 10M)
Ramallah	Organized by WCLAC	A meeting on women with disabilities in Palestine	Institutions related to the topic of disability, human rights organizations, Ministries, people with disabilities	53
Qalandia Refugee Camp	General Union of Palestinian Women & women's organizations	Participate in feminist march	A number of women's organizations	29
Hebron	Association of Women Committees for Social Work	Participate in feminist march	Women & men	500
Bethlehem	Number of Bethlehem institutions	Submit a working paper on the killing of women	Women & men	80

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
Al Aroub Girls School	Al Aroub Girls School	Workshop with teachers and parents as part of 16 Days of Activism Combating Violence Against Women	Teachers, parents	18
Hebron Municipality Hall	WCLAC in cooperation with the Council of Family Affairs	Wall hanging names of martyrs in Gaza aggression in 2014	The working institutions in the field of combating violence against women	70

In front of the Court of First/ Hebron	WCLAC in cooperation with the Council of Family Affairs	A gathering In front of the Court of First Hebron in order to put pressure on the court to implement the harshest penalty against the man accused of killing a girl in Samu	The working institutions in the field of combating violence against women	70
Jericho Governorate	Jericho Governorate and Doctors of the World Spain	Speak about violence	Jericho Governorate, Doctors of the World Spain, institutions	15
WCLAC/ Beit Jala Office	The activity organized by WCLAC	Workshop on the impact of the Israeli aggression on the status of Palestinian women	Government and civil society institutions	14
Hebron Governorate	Hebron Governorate	Conference on Violence Against Women, explored the realities of women's lives, and the conflict between the habits and traditions and the realities of the occupation	Governorate and civil society institutions	18
Al Istiqlal University, Jericho	WCLAC in cooperation with Al Istiqlal University in Jericho	Participate in an expanded meeting during which WCLAC presented a presentation on the UN resolution 1325 and women and armed conflict	Staff of Al Istiqlal University, the university students, Government and civil society institutions	150
Council Local Al Jiftlik village	WCLAC in cooperation with Jericho Governorate	Participate in an expanded meeting during which WCLAC delivered a presentation on the Action Combating Violence Against Women and International humanitarian law and women	Women from the village	18

***Appendix G: International and national landmark days***

<b>Location</b>	<b>Partner organisation</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
In front of the United Nations office /Ramallah	The NGO Forum on Violence Against Women (Al Muntada)	A gathering in front of the United Nations office to demonstrate solidarity with the "Yarmouk " refugee camp	A number of women's organizations	50
Palestinian Red Crescent Hall/ Al-Bireh	Center for Defense of Liberties & Civil Rights "Hurriyat"	Participate in the annual conference on the issue of sick prisoners	International and local institutions	80

Ramallah Cultural Palace	WCLAC & partner institutions	Feminist rally on the occasion of Women's Inheritance Day in the State of Palestine	Several groups of society	100
Hebron	Association Of Women Committees For Social Work	Conference of the Association of Women Committees for Social Work	Members of Conference	120
Ramallah	The NGO Forum on Violence Against Women (Al Muntada)	March against the killing of women	Organizations	200
Hebron court	Samou institutions, The Independent Commission for Human Rights	Pressure to make a judgment on the killing of a child in Hebron	A number of women's and human rights organizations	80
Hebron	Human rights organizations	A gathering in solidarity with Gaza children	Gaza children	200
In front of the headquarters of the Red Cross/ Hebron	The Palestinian National Coalition on UN Resolution 1325	A gathering in solidarity with the women and children of Gaza, and to deliver the Red Cross statement Coalition	The women and children of Gaza	30
WCLAC/ Hebron office	Human rights organizations in the south	Meeting in order to unify efforts to provide legal and social support for women	Women	27
Hebron	Public institutions	Mass rally for a boycott of Israeli goods	The public institutions	200
Children Happiness Center/ Hebron	Advisory Board	Honoring poet Samih al-Qasim	Institutions	100
Hebron	Ministry of Health	Coordinate work on Gaza wounded	Professional staff	30
Children Happiness Center/ Hebron	Culture office	Prepare a tribute to poet Samih al-Qasim	Staff and representatives of institutions	100

Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development office/ Hebron	Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development	Follow-up on the boycotting of goods	Women's institutions & housewives	45
General Union of Palestinian Women/ Hebron	General Union of Palestinian Women	Meeting and an invitation for WCLAC membership in the Union	Women's institutions & housewives	30
Hebron University	Hebron University	Political seminar	Women	20
Houses of martyrs	Feminist organizations	Condolences to the families of the martyrs	The families of the martyrs	50
Children Happiness Center/ Hebron	Palestinian Center for Communication and Development Strategies	Meeting to follow-up on the rights of working women	Feminist organizations and trade unions	100
Children Happiness Center/ Hebron	Committee memorial martyr (Hashem Abu Maria), including WCLAC	Ceremony of memorial martyr Hashem Abu Maria/ Director of Defence for Children International	Institutions working in the social field	500

**Appendix H: WCLAC in the Media 2014**

**WCLAC'S media coverage in 2014**

<b>WCLAC'S media coverage in 2014</b>		
<b>Number</b>	<b>Topic/ Title of the coverage</b>	<b>The link</b>
1.	WCLAC held a training course for Feminist leaders entitled "Communication and Media"	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=364">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=364</a>
2.	New two meetings of the National Commission for the inheritance project	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=359">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=359</a>
3.	WCLAC concludes a training course for the students on ways to needs study	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=358">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=358</a>
4.	WCLAC concludes awareness-raising session to women's from Husan village	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=357">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=357</a>
5.	Director's message 2014 – Is peace without principles possible?	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=354">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=354</a>
6.	March demanding women's rights to inheritance and the government is committed to implementation	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=352">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=352</a>

7.	WCLAC concludes a training course for a group of its volunteers	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=349">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=349</a>
8.	During a workshop with Journalists; emphasize the importance of developing addressing women's issues in the media	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=347">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=347</a>
9.	"As part of the celebrations of 8 March," WCLAC honors a group of volunteers women	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=341">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=341</a>
10.	Statement issued by WCLAC In International Women's Day, "It is time to stop the cycle of violence and killing against Palestinian women"	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=340">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=340</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/03/07/504875.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/03/07/504875.html</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=679604">http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=679604</a> <a href="http://www.naba.ps/arabic/?Action=Details&amp;ID=37685">http://www.naba.ps/arabic/?Action=Details&amp;ID=37685</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic?hc_location=timeline">https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic?hc_location=timeline</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/</a>
11.	WCLAC & Birzeit University Concludes a training Course under the title of women's rights human rights	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=339">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=339</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=679583">http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=679583</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/03/08/504912.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/03/08/504912.html</a> <a href="http://www.al-ayyam.com/pdfs/9-3-2014/p06.pdf">http://www.al-ayyam.com/pdfs/9-3-2014/p06.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic?hc_location=timeline">https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic?hc_location=timeline</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/</a>
12.	WCLAC Start the second phase of the AMAL project	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=334">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=334</a>
13.	The Third meeting of the national coalition in the Right to Inheritance project	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=332">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=332</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic">https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/</a>
14.	Revival Women's Inheritance Day	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=331">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=331</a>
15.	WCLAC concludes a training program on the national referral system in the West Bank	<a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/01/22/487276.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/01/22/487276.html</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=667513">http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=667513</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic">https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/</a> <a href="http://arabic.pnn.ps/index.php/home/pnn/services/website/2012-01-11-16-33-28/79323-">arabic.pnn.ps/index.php/home/pnn/services/website/2012-01-11-16-33-28/79323-</a> <a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=330">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=330</a>
16.	WCLAC concludes session to prepare trainers southern West Bank	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=327">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=327</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/01/09/482562.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/01/09/482562.html</a> <a href="http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=663968">http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=663968</a> <a href="http://www.pnn.ps/index.php/home/pnn/services/website/2012-01-11-16-33-28/78053-">http://www.pnn.ps/index.php/home/pnn/services/website/2012-01-11-16-33-28/78053-</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic">https://www.facebook.com/WCLAC.arabic</a>



		<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/231673213641809/</a>
17.	WCLAC hold a training course for the feminist leaders	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=364">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=364</a>
18.	WCLAC concludes training course for a group of volunteers on the protection of women through the technology of clubs listening	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=365">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=365</a>
19.	WCLAC concludes training course for media students in Al-Najah university	<a href="http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=368">http://www.wclac.org/atemplate.php?id=368</a> <a href="http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/06/24/557637.html">http://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2014/06/24/557637.html</a> <a href="http://www.asdaapress.com/?newsID=3906">http://www.asdaapress.com/?newsID=3906</a> <a href="http://www.maannnews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=707949">http://www.maannnews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=707949</a>

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

The name of the media outlet	Topics
Nisaa FM Radio	Women's Inheritance Day
Voice Of Palestine	Divorce in Sharia courts and Personal Status Law and its impact on women
Al-Quds Open University	Femicide
Alam Radio	Femicide
Rafm	Divorce
Alam Radio	The image of women in the media
Alam Radio	The rights of refugee women
Al Hureiya Radio	The image of women in the media
Alfalstiniyah TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Societal violence</li> <li>▪ Killing of women</li> <li>▪ occupation violence and its impact on society</li> </ul>
Voice Of Palestine	Killing of women
Nisaa FM Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Violence</li> <li>▪ The role of women in society</li> </ul>
Nisaa FM Radio	Services provided by WCLAC

Voice Of Palestine	International Women's Day (8 <sup>th</sup> March) activities
Nisaa FM Radio	Statistics reporting the killing of women
Palestine TV	Statistics on the killing of women
Palestine TV	The image of women in the media
Dahriya Radio	Killing of women
Alfalstiniyah TV	Alimony & Custody
Al Hureiya Radio	Killing of women
Angham Radio	Interview about WCLAC capacity building unit
Al-Quds Educational TV	The National Referral System (Takamol)
Sama Radio	The spread of the phenomenon of violence in the Palestinian society and statistics on violence
Alam Radio	Domestic violence and harassment
Alam Radio	Sexual harassment
Watan TV	Sexual harassment
Alam Radio	The idda for divorced women during lactation
Alam Radio	Bedouin communities
Alam Radio	Domestic violence
Radio Al Rabea	The activities for the week of Action on VAW

**Appendix J: Volunteer cluster activities**

Date	Partner	Topic	No of Participants	Target group	Location
<b>Hebron</b>					
26/4	Health clinic	Need assessment visits in "AL-Mofqara & Beit-amra" regions	3	Local area residents, women	Al-Mofqara & Beit-amra ,Yatta
6/3	Hebron office	Honored a group of women who have faced social challenges	55	Representatives of women's organizations, volunteers. Representatives from the feminist frameworks and housewives.	The Cultural Center of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees
26/4	Hebron cluster	Need assessment visits to "AL-Mofqara & Beit-amra" regions. The visits showed that regions were suffering from low socio-economic status and the local population suffered a lack of all basic rights.	2	Local area residents, women.	Local area residents in "AL-Mofqara & Beit-amra" regions.

09/14 - 11/14	Hebron volunteer group	10 sessions of radio listener clubs ( using edutainment technology to raise awareness )	15	University students	Hebron
11/14 - 12/14	Hebron volunteer group	Community initiative - produce a film documenting the success story of the first women to become a heavyduty truck drivier, challenging social norms.	5	Palestinian community	Hebron- Dora
<b>Tulkarem</b>					
11/2	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem	Coordination meeting with the Director of Community Action Center in Tulkarem	34	Women's, Director of Community Action Center	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem
3/3	WCLAC, YMCA	Honored WCLAC & volunteers by YMCA	10	Managers of partner institutions	YMCA
16/3	Volunteers, Tulkarem Governorate	Participation in the activity was implemented by the Tulkarem Governorate	15	Volunteers	'Shufa'' area/ Tulkarem
23- 24/3	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem	Awareness-raising workshop on community leadership	18	Volunteer group in Tulkarem	Community Action Center
16/4	Volunteers, Tulkarem Governorate	Cooperation and coordination meeting with the governor of Tulkarem	4	Tulkarem Governorate , Director of Public Relations in the province	Tulkarem Governorate
17/5	Women's Media Foundation "Tam"	Facilitate a workshop on the National Referral System; "Takamol".	50	Representatives from women's organizations in the province and school principals	Khutwat family counseling center in Hebron
14/10	Directorate Of Education/ Tulkarem	Cooperation and coordination meeting with Directorate Of Education in Tulkarem	6	Director of education, Deputy Director and those responsible for public relations.	Directorate Of Education/ Tulkarem
23/10	Directorate of Education in Tulkarem	Apply a base coat to the walls of the school in preparation for painting.	21	3 girls' schools in Tulkarem	3 girls' schools in Tulkarem; Kataba secondary school, Baqa al sharqiyah school and Ramin school
25/10	Directorate of Education in	Help the 'Imprint of Hope and Smile Group' (a group of Palestinian volunteers from '48 territories) paint and	45	3 girls' schools in Tulkarem	3 girls' schools in Tulkarem; Kataba

	Tulkarem	draw on the walls of the 3 girls' schools in Tulkarem. The art on the wall addresses the national dimension and the struggle of Palestinian women.			secondary school, Baqa al sharqiyah school and Ramin school
25/10	Tulkarem governorate	A meeting with the governor of Tulkarem governorate where the governor was thanking WCLAC for undertaking this initiative and for the care and communication from WCLAC volunteers and towards other '48 Palestinian volunteers.	25	WCLAC volunteers, volunteers from the voluntary groups of '48 Palestinians and a number of local community representatives	Tulkarem governorate
26-29/10	Kataba secondary school, Baqa al sharqiyah school, Ramin school	Forming groups to undertake several activities; the first group to plant trees and the second group to organize awareness raising meetings for students. The implementation of activities will be discussed in the meetings.	1,200	The school students	3 girls' schools in Tulkarem
	Tulkarem volunteers group	10 sessions of radio listener clubs ( using edutainment technology to raise awareness )	15	University students	Al Najdeh organization
	Tulkarem volunteers group	A community initiative to improve the educational environment by painting the walls of schools, planting trees and providing seats. The initiative also involved sessions to raise awareness on sexual harassment and on safe use of social media sites.	770	School students – girls	3 girls' schools in (Ikraba , Zeta, Rameen )
	Tulkarem volunteers group	Workshop about active citizenship and the promotion of community and political participation.	17	Volunteers and womens' organization	Al Najdeh organization
<b>Bethlehem</b>					
21/1	Women's Media Foundation "Tam"	A meeting with Women's' Media Foundation "Tam" on the mechanism of joint work	4	The general director & director of programme & programme coordinators of Women's Media Foundation "Tam"	Women's Media Foundation "Tam"
21/1	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation	Meeting with Ibda'a Dheisheh to discuss the mechanism of joint action in 2014	6	The director of programme & head of the administrative board in Ibda'a Dheisheh, volunteers	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
12/2	Women's Media Foundation "Tam",	Meeting with the Coalition for the High Risk Project to discuss training and the permanent campaign against	25	Coalition members	Women's Media Foundation "Tam"

	Coalition members	the murders			
12/2	Office of the Head of the Department of Sociology / Bethlehem University	Meeting to discuss the mechanisms of cooperation and joint work between WCLAC & Bethlehem University	55	Bethlehem University students/ Department of Sociology	Bethlehem University
8/3	Ibda'a Dheisheh, Palestine Ahliya University	Meeting to clarify the mechanisms of action with supportive groups	10	A supportive group of university students	Palestine Ahliya University
9/3	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation, Bethlehem volunteers group	Honored a group of women who showcased successful experiences at the political level and community work	10	Women & men from Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation & volunteers	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
22/3	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation, volunteers	A coordination meeting to facilitate the work of the volunteers in Bethlehem with Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation	23	Ibda'a Dheisheh Board of Directors	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
17/5	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation	Meeting with the Board of Directors and Executive Director of "Ibda'a" in order to re-draft the MOU covering all WCLAC activities	4	The Board of Directors and Executive Director of "Ibda'a" foundation	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
4/9 8/9 15/9 22/9 29/9	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation	Club listening sessions for women activists including activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Defining club listening and club listening's mission, vision and goals</li> <li>▪ Icebreaking activities</li> <li>▪ Three in-depth interviews with a number of participants</li> </ul>	19	Women activists in the community	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
09/14 - 12/14	Bethlehem volunteers group	10 sessions of radio listener clubs ( using edutainment technology to raise awareness )	15	Women community leaders	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
<b>Jericho</b>					
9/3	Jericho Governorate	A coordination meeting with Jericho Governorate to discuss the role of partnership in the implementation of community activities	3	Director of the Department of Women and communication centers in the province	Jericho Governorate
15/3	Jericho Governorate	Participated in the activity on the reality of women in the Jordan Valley	10	Governorate, volunteers	Jericho Governorate
25/8	Moon Association in	Visit to the Moon Association in order to create a new	5	Director of the moon	Moon Association,

	Jericho	partnership with it and introduce them to WCLAC and the activities carried out by volunteers		Association	Jericho
25/8	Women center in Fasayel	Visit to the womens' center in Fasayel in order to discuss with them the establishment of a summer camp in Fasayel village	5	The head of the womens; center in Fasayel	Women center in Fasayel, Jericho
28/8 – 31/8	Women center in Fasayel village ; village council; girls school in Fasayel	A 4 day summer Camp in Fasayel village including educational and recreational activities	45	Girl students aged 8 to 12	Fasayel village; Jericho
11/14 - 12/14	Jericho volunteers group	10 sessions of radio listener clubs ( using edutainment technology to raise awareness )	15	University students	Al Najdeh organization
08/14	Jericho volunteers group, Fasyel women's center.	Community initiative - summer camp for girls in Fasayel village which focused on raising awareness on the protection of children from violence.	40	Girls aged 10-12 and their mothers	Fasyel women's center

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

	Date	Topics	No of Participants	Location
<b>Hebron</b>				
1	25/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting on the mechanisms work with the supportive groups</li> <li>▪ Discussing the central activities for the 16 Days of Action on VAW &amp; International Women's Day (8 March)</li> <li>▪ Showing the administrative and financial system of WCLAC volunteer program</li> <li>▪ Showing the nature of the activities associated with building and in turn empowering supportive and official groups</li> </ul>	17 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
2	8/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting regarding Hebron cluster action plan in 2014</li> <li>▪ Discussing the guidelines for the action plan in 2014</li> <li>▪ Organizing the administrative arrangement for the group</li> </ul>	20 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
3	26/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A preparatory meeting for regarding holding training sessions</li> <li>▪ Meetings discussing the first steps to implement the community project</li> <li>▪ Identifying the “AL Mofqara” region to work with them to implement the community project</li> </ul>	7 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
4	12/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to discuss the implementation of community activities</li> </ul>	20 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
5	4/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Handover meeting in order to follow the activities and the community projects in the area.</li> </ul>	19 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office



6	7/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussing the community projects</li> <li>▪ Showing part of the article written about the need for a systematic examination required for the project community</li> </ul>	15 volunteers	Through Facebook
7	14/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communicating with the volunteers in order to provide us with the names of grassroots institutions operating in Hebron</li> </ul>	5 volunteers	Over the phone
8	9/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introducing WCLAC's work, vision and goals</li> <li>▪ Forming WCLAC volunteer groups</li> <li>▪ Dividing a group of volunteers in Hebron into five committees; Social Committee, Cultural Committee, the Legal Committee, the Media Committee and the Resolve and Conflict Management Committee</li> <li>▪ Collecting Hebron volunteer's data in order to establish a database containing all WCLAC volunteers groups</li> </ul>	31 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
9	23/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to discuss the idea of a community project (the community project is a short film to document the success story of a woman living in a conservative society who went against traditional and societal norms via her choice of work) and the implementation of a plan.</li> <li>▪ Dividing roles between the volunteers</li> </ul>	6 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
10	6/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to follow up the community project in Hebron</li> <li>▪ Discussing the implementation plan and awareness workshops</li> <li>▪ Preparing a plan for listener clubs</li> </ul>	33 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
11	6/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Follow-up meeting for WCLAC 's new volunteers cluster in Hebron</li> <li>▪ Enhancing communication and integration of the new group of volunteers in Hebron in volunteer activities carried out by the group</li> </ul>	18 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
12	8/9	A meeting discussing the implementation of workshops, the outreach plan and the preparation of the listening clubs plan	31 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
13	9/6	A meeting to follow-up community initiatives where practical steps were discussed and a number of media and community volunteers prepared a plan to implement the initiative, which focuses on the content of the success story of a woman from the South.	33 volunteers	WCLAC Hebron office
14	8/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Media volunteers conducted a meeting to discuss the idea of a community initiative</li> <li>▪ Volunteers discussed resources available to prepare this film as well as the necessary tools and materials.</li> </ul>	6 volunteers	Hebron
15	11/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion meetings regarding issues related to women in the Palestinian legislation and laws</li> </ul>	14 volunteers	Hebron
<b>Tulkarem</b>				
1	28/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting on the mechanisms work with the supportive groups</li> <li>▪ Discussing the central activities for the 16 Days of Action on VAW &amp; International Women's Day (8 March)</li> <li>▪ Showing the administrative and financial system of WCLAC volunteer program</li> <li>▪ Showing the nature of the activities associated with building, in turn empowering the supportive</li> </ul>	20 volunteers	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem

		and official groups		
2	11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting on the Hebron cluster action plan of 2014</li> <li>▪ Discuss the guidelines for the action plan of 2014</li> <li>▪ Organizing and administrative arrangement for the group</li> </ul>	17 volunteers	Chamber of Commerce/ Tulkarem
3	20/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervising and conducting a follow-up meeting with the group</li> <li>▪ Preparing for TOT &amp; needs survey training</li> </ul>	13 volunteers	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem
4	16/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to follow up the work with Tulkarem group</li> </ul>	11 volunteers	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem
5	7/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussing the community projects</li> <li>▪ Showing part of the article written about the need for a systematic examination required for the community project</li> </ul>	15 volunteers	Through the Facebook
6	11/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introducing WCLAC's work, vision and goals</li> <li>▪ Forming WCLAC volunteer groups</li> <li>▪ Dividing a group of volunteers in Tulkarem into five committees; Social Committee, Cultural Committee, the Legal Committee, the Media Committee and the Resolve and Conflict Management Committee</li> <li>▪ Collecting Tulkarem volunteers data in order to establish a database containing all WCLAC volunteers groups</li> </ul>	30 volunteers	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem
7	20/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to discuss the idea of a community project (the community project involves an activity on the Commemoration of Martyrs and educating the public about the role of women struggling for a just cause) and the implementation plan</li> <li>▪ The meeting also focused on the division of roles between the members of the group</li> </ul>	14 volunteers	Al-Najdeh association
8	12/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to follow the progress of the implementation of the community project which targets three secondary schools in order to create a healthy learning environment</li> </ul>	17 volunteers	Community Action Center/ Tulkarem
9	8/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The meeting aimed to discuss the awareness plan</li> </ul>	30 volunteers	Al Najdeh Association – Tulkarm
10	8/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting discussed the community initiative and implementation plan, with a focus on the various roles between the members of the group.</li> </ul>	14 volunteers	AlNajdeh Association – Tulkarm
11	9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinating with partner institutions, schools and community initiatives.</li> </ul>	17 volunteers	Irtah Women's center
12	1/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to coordinate buying community initiative supplies</li> </ul>	17 volunteers	AlNajdeh Association – Tulkarm
13	19/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion meetings regarding issues related to women in the Palestinian legislation and laws</li> </ul>	14 volunteers	AlNajdeh Association – Tulkarm

<b>Bethlehem</b>				
1	19/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting on Bethlehem cluster action plan of 2014</li> <li>▪ Discussing the guidelines for the action plan of 2014</li> </ul>	7 volunteers	Bethlehem University
2	22/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervision and a follow-up meeting with the group</li> <li>▪ Visit to Palestine Ahliya University to prepare for the Oxfam Novib project in the universities</li> </ul>	11 volunteers	Palestine Ahliya University
3	28/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussing the mechanism of implementation of the community project</li> <li>▪ Organizing the work within the group</li> </ul>	7 volunteers	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
4	28/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussing the mechanism of implementation of the community project</li> <li>▪ Organizing the work within the group</li> </ul>	12 volunteers	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
5	4/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Handover meeting in order to follow the activities and the community projects in the area</li> </ul>	12 volunteers	Ibda'a Dheisheh Foundation
6	7/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussing the community projects</li> <li>▪ Showing part of the article written about the need for a systematic examination required for the community project</li> </ul>	15 volunteers	Through Facebook
7	12/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A meeting aimed at planning activities for the 16 days combating violence campaign</li> </ul>	12 volunteers	Bethlehem
8	20/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion meetings regarding issues related to women in the Palestinian legislation and laws</li> </ul>	14 volunteers	Moon Charity Association
<b>Jericho</b>				
1	24/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supervision and follow-up meeting with the group</li> <li>▪ Showing the nature of the community project to be conducted in the Jordan Valley</li> <li>▪ Showing the results of the field visits, which focused on the economic empowerment &amp; needs of women</li> </ul>	9 volunteers	Al-Quds Open University
2	2/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support and follow-up meeting with Jericho coordinator</li> </ul>	2 volunteers	Al-Quds Open University
3	19/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting with Jericho coordinator in order to follow-up the activities in the area</li> </ul>	2 volunteers	Al-Quds Open University
4	7/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussing the community projects</li> <li>▪ Showing part of the article written about the need for a systematic examination required for the community project</li> </ul>	15 volunteers	Through the Facebook
5	21/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting to discuss the idea of community project and implementation plan</li> <li>▪ The community project is to hold a summer camp targeting a number of female students in the school Fasayel</li> <li>▪ Prepare the agenda for the daily activities during summer camp</li> <li>▪ Distribution of volunteers to participate in the camp, according to tasks and day</li> <li>▪ A number of volunteers will coordinate with partner institutions such as the Red Crescent in</li> </ul>	12 volunteers	Al-Quds Open University

		<p>Jericho and UNRWA Jericho area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of volunteers will visit local community institutions in Fasayel village and the village council and essential school Fasayel to coordinate with them.</li> <li>A group to follow up the coordination of transportation, attendance and communication with the group.</li> <li>A group to follow up on the needs of the camp in terms of hospitality and logistics</li> </ul>		
6	31/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction about WCLAC work, vision and goals</li> <li>The goal of forming WCLAC for volunteer groups</li> <li>A group of volunteers in Tulkarem was divided into five committees; Social Committee, Cultural Committee, the Legal Committee, the Media Committee, Resolution and Conflict management Committee</li> <li>Jericho volunteers data was collected in order to work on a database containing all WCLAC volunteer groups</li> </ul>	25 volunteers	Al-Quds Open University
7	8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group was divided into five committees so as to identify the general framework for the work of each committee within the group</li> </ul>	25 volunteers	Alquds open university – Jericho
8	8/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting aimed to planning for the Community Initiative</li> </ul>	12 volunteers	Moon Charity Association
9	11/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings to discuss issues related to women in the Palestinian legislation and laws</li> </ul>	13 volunteers	Moon Charity Association

**Appendix L: Training course in the Takamol national referral system (health, social, legal services)**

Location	Target group	No of Participants	Topics
The northern regions	Service providers in the health, social, police sectors in the areas of Nablus, Tulkarem, Salfit, Jenin, Tubas, and Qalqilya	25	Workshops on how to deliver training in the use of referral system for Centers that deal with women victims of violence
The southern regions	Service providers in the health, social, police sectors in the areas of Hebron and Bethlehem	17	Workshops on how to deliver training in the use of referral system for Centers that deal with women victims of violence
The central region	Service providers in the health, social, police sectors in the areas of Ramallah, Jerusalem and Jericho	25	Workshops on how to deliver training in the use of referral system for Centers that deal with women victims of violence
Northern, southern, central regions	Judges and staff of the Family Counseling in Sharia courts	89 (29 F; 60M)	Referral system that deal with women victims of violence and women's rights in inheritance

<b>Total :</b>	<b>156</b>
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*Appendix M: Capacity building training courses*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Target group</b>	<b>No. Participants</b>	<b>Topics</b>
Ramallah	Volunteers from Hebron, Bethlehem, Tulkarem, Jericho	17	Provide participants with the skills of debate and dialogue with the public and build bridges of trust in community work; provide them with the bases of journalistic writing, a training program contained the process of photography and media reports and press and the requirements to ensure the success of television production applications
Ramallah	Volunteers from Hebron, Bethlehem, Tulkarem, Jericho	20	Training on how to assess needs before implementing activities and studies
Ramallah	Volunteers from Hebron, Bethlehem, Tulkarem, Jericho	19 (13F; 6M)	Using edutainment technology as a tool and creating 'listeners clubs' to raise awareness.
	Women organizations, PA employee, NGO	25 (21F; 4M)	CEDAW and preparation of parallel reports