

# Situation report on discriminations against women in Palestine

March 2023

## INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Optional Protocol

**2014**  
 CEDAW Ratified

**2019**  
 Optional protocol ratified

Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as Istanbul Convention)

Not Applicable

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)

Not Applicable

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

**2014**  
 Ratified

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**2014**  
 Ratified

## MAIN OBSTACLES TO GENDER EQUALITY DE JURE AND DE FACTO



Different Personal Status Laws institutionalise discrimination against women on divorce, child custody, alimony, inheritance, and assets. Different Palestinian Penal Codes are implemented in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, worsened in practice by patriarchal attitudes.



Abortion is prohibited and only allowed in a few cases. This leads to unsafe abortion practices that endanger the lives of women.



The Family Protection from Violence Bill has not been ratified for more than 15 years and is stagnated due to the absence of political will to adopt it.



Vulnerable women (women with disabilities, victims of human trafficking, LBTA) are not protected by existing laws.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Adopt comprehensive legislation** that prohibits all forms of discrimination and violence against women and amend all gender gaps in the relevant laws.
- Call upon the Palestinian Authority to abide by its obligations towards international conventions and treaties it acceded to through the adoption of progressive and **non-discriminatory laws**.
- Expedite enactment of the **Family Protection Bill** based on the five due diligence principles outlined in customary international law. Add a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, including discrimination based on gender and disability, and impose deterrent penalties against all forms of such discrimination.
- Call upon the Palestinian Authority to end the complex violence practiced against women while peacefully demonstrating, as there is an absence of **protection of women in the public sphere**, especially as these practices reinforce negative cultural perceptions about the roles of women and girls and their exclusion from the public sphere.
- Expedite a revision of the draft **Palestinian Penal Law** and its adoption in accordance with international conventions and references that guarantee human rights, and women's rights in particular.

*Note: This Situation report covers the State of Palestine (West Bank and Gaza Strip).*

## 1. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

**The State of Palestine** implements an operating legal system which is a combination of British, Jordanian, Egyptian, Ottoman, and Palestinian laws (including Sharia personal status laws) as well as Israeli military orders. Some of these laws remain un-amended since before 1948. Because of the imposition of the Israeli blockade on the Gaza strip and the separate de facto governance of the West Bank, laws have passed unilaterally which often leads to inconsistency.

### International conventions

Palestine had signed 21 international treaties and conventions by the end of 2022, including the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) without reservations in 2014.

The Palestinian government submitted its first official report to the CEDAW Committee in 2018 and was requested to submit a follow-up report within two years. In its concluding remarks, the CEDAW Committee insisted upon the Palestinian government submitting the initial and the follow up report on the adoption of the Family Protection Law, the Personal Status Law, and the Penal Code, among others. Palestinian civil society organisations submitted their report to the CEDAW committee in 2022 for the list of issues, which were later sent by the Committee to the Government for their response.

Other international treaties signed by Palestine are: Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. No reservations have been entered by Palestine to these treaties.

Palestine has not signed nor ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (called Istanbul Convention) and Palestinian national laws have not yet been harmonised with the international conventions Palestine has ratified.

### Constitutional equality

The **Palestinian Basic Law guarantees women's equality and equal participation**.<sup>1</sup> Article 9 states that Palestinians shall be equal before the law and the judiciary, without distinction based upon race, sex, colour, religion, political views, or disability. Equality is stipulated through several texts which confirm the Palestinian Authority's commitment to the spirit of human rights principles, such as Article 10, which states: "The Palestinian National Authority must work immediately to conform to regional and international declarations and covenants that protect human rights and are not inconsistent with Islamic law".



## Civil and familial rights

Personal status refers to a woman's rights as related to family law, and can include but is not limited to: divorce law, child custody, alimony, inheritance, and assets.

In **Palestine**, there are different religious groups, governed by different laws on family matters. There are Personal Status Laws for Catholic Christians, Episcopal Anglican Christians, Orthodox Christians, and Coptic Orthodox Christians. The Samaritan minority in Nablus is also governed by its own family law, which is based on their Torah.

The Jordanian Personal Status Law No. 61 of 1976 is applied for Muslims in the West Bank and the Egyptian Law of Family Rights of 1954 applies to Muslims in Gaza. While several reforms have been made to Jordanian and Egyptian personal status law, in Palestine, the laws remain in their original form.

**Women's inequality is institutionalised by personal status laws.** The application of these laws often results in disadvantages for women and therefore contradicts decisions of the Palestinian National Authority, including the Presidential Decree endorsing CEDAW issued in 2009.

The main discriminations are:

- **Minimum age of marriage:** There is a Presidential Decree from 2019 setting the minimum age for marriage at 18 for women

and men. The Decree, however, allowed specific exceptions to be decided by the Chief of Judges. Because the exceptions were left unspecified within the law, the Chief of Judges requested the judges of the Shari'a courts, "to verify the legal, Shari'a and social justifications, establish a control according to the case's reality " and submit it to him "to study it and carry out the legal and Shari'a requirements duly". In the Gaza Strip, **child marriage** is addressed as Article (5) of the Family Rights Law applicable in the Gaza Strip regarding the eligibility for marriage provided that the groom is 18 years old or above, and the bride is at least 17 years old. However, the law contains a serious exception to this rule in Articles 6, 7, and 8 which allow the judge to permit the marriage of a female above 9 years old and a male above 12 years old. In 1995, Judicial Circular No.87 was issued by the Sharia Judiciary Council, prohibiting judges from contracting any marriage if the bride is less than 15 years old according to the Islamic "Hijri" calendar (i.e., 14.55 according to the Gregorian calendar) and the groom is less than 16 years old according to the Islamic "Hijri" calendar (i.e., 15.52 according to the Gregorian calendar). Thus, a Sharia judge in the Gaza Strip can contract the marriage of men who are above 15.5 years old, and any woman over the age of 14.5.

- **Marriage and divorce:** A wife has a duty of obedience to her husband under the personal status laws for Muslims. Verbal repudiation (talaq) can be used by a husband to divorce. A wife has the right to divorce on specified grounds. She can also apply for a khul'a divorce without grounds if she forgoes financial rights. Khul'a divorce is permitted only in cases where the marriage has been registered but the marriage ceremony is yet to be conducted.<sup>2</sup>

- **Male guardianship over women and children:** In order to marry, Muslim women require consent of a wali (male guardian). Protections for women under guardianship are weak. If a guardian withholds consent to marry without a legitimate reason, women can seek permission from the court.
- **Inheritance:** The Jordanian Personal Status Law of 1976 is applied in the West Bank and the Family Law of 1954 in the Gaza Strip, both based on Sharia law. Although women have a right to inheritance, in many cases receive less than men. Daughters receive half the share that sons receive.
- **Polygamy** is permitted under Sharia law although there is no article in the personal status laws addressing.
- **Custody of children:** An amendment has been made to the **custody of children** in Article 391 of the Personal Status Law applicable in the Gaza Strip and Article 162 of the 1976 Personal Status Law applicable in the West Bank through Law no. 1 of 2009 amending the Personal Status Law issued by the Change and Reform Bloc in the Gaza Strip on behalf of the Palestinian Legislative Council. This amendment provides permanent custody to a widowed mother who commits herself to raising her children if it is in their interest. The distinction between a divorced woman and a widowed woman in terms of maintaining custody of her children if she does not remarry violates Article (16/1/D) of CEDAW.

On 12 September 2022, the Change and Reform Bloc in the Legislative Council ( Hamas Movement's bloc) in the Gaza Strip declared on its official website that it is drafting a new Personal Status Law to meet society's needs and keep pace with development.

According to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, this draft perpetuates discrimination between men and women, as many of its articles contradict CEDAW.

**There is no Palestinian nationality law.** The Israeli occupation prevents state institutions from conferring nationality. Identity cards are issued to Palestinians registered in the Palestinian population registry, which is controlled by the Israeli military under a law pertaining to the occupation. Palestinian authorities can confirm residency status for Palestinians under the Palestinian Civil Status Law no. 2 of 1999, and Palestinian women can confer residency on their children.<sup>3</sup>

## Political rights

According to the Basic Law, **the right to participate in political life is guaranteed.** The right to hold public office and positions is enshrined in accordance with the principle of equal opportunities (Article 26). The Palestinian National Council (PNC) confirmed during its session on January 16, 2018, the imposition of a minimum women's quota of 30% in all state institutions in electoral commissions. The Palestinian Central Council reaffirmed this decision during its meeting in February 2022. It confirmed its decision of adopting a minimum quota for women of 30% in the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) bodies and institutions of the State of Palestine. The Council stressed the importance of the role of young men and women in the process of building state institutions and the process of development and construction.

## Sexual and reproductive rights

In Palestine, **abortion is prohibited**. The 1960 Penal Code enforced in the West Bank and the 1936 Criminal Code enforced in Gaza both criminalise abortion and it is only allowed in cases of high risk to the mother's life. Under article 321 of the 1960 Penal Code, women can be imprisoned for 3-6 years for having an abortion. In addition, anyone who supports the abortion process, for example a doctor, may be imprisoned for 1-3 years under article 322. Abortion is criminalised regardless of the circumstances of the pregnancy, and there are no exceptions in cases of rape, incest or deformation of the foetus. Women can receive reduced sentences for an illegal abortion under the 1960 Penal Code if they cite "honour" as the reason.

**There is no legislation or national strategy on sexual and reproductive health. Adultery** is an offence in Gaza and the West Bank. In the West Bank, Article 282 of the Penal Code criminalises adultery.

Same sex conduct between consenting adults is criminalised by the Criminal Code of 1936 in Gaza, with a penalty of up to ten years of imprisonment. The Penal Code from 1960 enforced in the West Bank has no similar prohibition.

## Laws on gender-based violence/violence against women

The **Family Protection Law** aims to prevent and combat violence, as well as to provide due protection, reparation, and empowerment

of survivors of violence while holding perpetrators accountable for their acts. The endorsement of the Family Protection Law is critical to ending violence against women and girls in Palestine.

The current Bill addresses the procedures for protecting women from domestic and all other forms of violence and supporting survivors both psychologically and physically. The proposed law also locally integrates the standards and principles of International Human Rights Law and the related international conventions and covenants. The law also stipulates the establishment of the Family Protection Unit at the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD). Moreover, the family-protection counsellors in the unit will have the legal authority to perform precautionary, preventive, and therapeutic interventions. They, in short, will be authorised to implement all necessary measures in cases where the family's safety is threatened. The Family Protection Law also stipulates the exact function and authority of the specialised courts that would deal with domestic violence cases.

The first draft of the Family Protection from Violence Bill was designed in late 2013 and was submitted to both the MoSD and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). The draft law was forwarded to the legislative council within the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who held meetings with numerous governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the field of women's rights and family protection. Al-Muntada for Combating Violence Against Women, which is an umbrella of 17 women's rights organisations, submitted recommendations on how to render the proposed draft law more gender-sensitive in February 2020. The process of ratification of the Family Protection Bill is stagnated due to the absence of a political

will to adopt it. This situation, combined with the absence of the Palestinian Legislative Council, will adversely affect the process of reviewing and adopting the Bill.

**Marital rape** is not criminalised. It is not a criminal offence in the West Bank for an adult man and woman who are not married to engage in consensual sex.

Regarding **sexual harassment**, article 305 of the Penal Code criminalises unwanted sexual conduct (sexual molestation) of women who are above the age of 18 years, but it is not criminalised by the Labour Code.

## Economic and social rights

Discrimination between women and men in the workplace is prohibited under the **Labour Law of 2000 (article 100)**. Under this same law, it is forbidden for employers to dismiss a woman because she takes maternity leave which is established at 10 weeks. There are some legal restrictions to women's employment in certain industries, like mining, that do not apply to men. However, the Labour Law does not apply to domestic workers. Having said this, some protections for domestic workers (relating to the number of working hours, the right to rest, remuneration, post-contract rights, and compensation) are regulated by a Council of Minister's decision.

According to the Palestinian Basic Law, every Palestinian has the right to education, and education is compulsory until at least the end of the basic level. Education is free in public schools and institutions (Article 24).

## Vulnerable and/or marginalised populations

The **provisions of the Personal Status Law deny or undermine the legal capacity of women with mental disabilities** in relation to marriage, testimony, custody and inheritance. The Sharia courts do not accommodate the needs and requirements of women with disabilities and lack inclusion components. The Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities does not specifically mention "women with disabilities" and this is an indicator of the double exclusion these women are subjected to.

Regarding **human trafficking**, Palestine does not have comprehensive antitrafficking legislation. In the West Bank, some provisions of the Penal Code of Jordan apply to trafficking.

While the penal code 1960 (Jordan) which applies in the West Bank has no prohibition on consensual sex between adults of the same sex, the Criminal code of 1936 that applies in Gaza criminalises sexual acts between men ("carnal knowledge against the order of nature") with a penalty of up to ten years' imprisonment. The last draft of the Unified Penal Code of Palestine from 2011 criminalises all acts of homosexuality and acts "against nature."

There are no specific laws protecting transgender, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people from hate crimes, GBV, or discrimination. There are no legal protections for, or legal recognition of, transgender people.





## 2. DE FACTO DISCRIMINATION

### Civil and familial rights

In **Palestine**, the main source of discrimination are the different Personal Status laws, that inscribe inequality by law. Sometimes the impact of the laws can be worsened in practice. For example, regarding inheritance, women often do not receive their legal entitlement of inheritance and may be pressured by male relatives to waive their rights entirely. Sharia rules on inheritance are sometimes applied to non-Muslim communities when their own religious law is ambiguous or not sufficiently explicit.

### Political rights

In the **Palestinian context**, women's participation, and opportunities for such, in political decision-making remains unsatisfactory. This is despite a generally politically active civil society including women's rights organisations and activists working for over 30 years toward achieving gender justice.

Contrary to the mandate of the UN Security Council 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security), women have been largely excluded from formal dialogue efforts to end the Palestinian political division. Their voices and concerns have neither been heard nor included in the various reconciliation talks held and agreements reached since 2005. Moreover, only a few women participated in official meetings held between the political parties in Cairo in 2011. In 2017, there were no women invited—from Islamic, secular, or Leftist parties—to

the dialogue table.

Women activists condemned both parties' practices of excluding women from the negotiations and reconciliation processes. These developments were indications that the way forward toward women's full public and political participation is still obstructed by cultural constraints and patriarchal power relations.

Regarding the elections, on March 26th, Palestinian residents of the West Bank's major cities cast ballots in a peaceful election to choose municipal councils. Like previous elections, the 2021–2022 West Bank municipal elections took place in a difficult political climate (ongoing Israeli occupation, protracted political standoff between the two main political parties, ongoing deterioration for human rights and basic freedoms). According to the Central Elections Commissions (CEC) men represented 72.8% and women 27.5% of the candidates respectively. Women candidates won 21% of victories by acclamation and 18% of victories by vote.

The Palestinian legislative and presidential elections that were initially planned to be held in May 2021 were postponed indefinitely. The primary cited reason was that Palestinians in East Jerusalem would not be permitted to vote according to Israeli authorities. It is worth noting that the legislative elections that had been cancelled in 2021 had 405 women candidates on electoral lists (29% of candidates). Moreover, despite the Palestinian National Council (PNC) confirming during its session on January 16, 2018, the imposition of a minimum women's quota of 30% in all state institutions in electoral commissions, the necessary actions to guarantee this were never taken.



In addition to the limited number of women taking part in the local elections, it is important to consider the **maltreatment that female candidates endure as a part of their participation and advocacy**. In response to persistent provocation, hate speech, attacks, and pressure on candidates, particularly women candidates, the Central Elections Commission (CEC) published a code of conduct against interfering with women's rights in local elections. The CEC published a circular urging electoral lists to commit to including women candidates in election campaigns, whether by participation, public appearances, or exposure on campaign posters. Despite this, women's participation in decision-making positions is still lower than that of men. Women still make up only about 25% of Central Council members in 2022, compared to 11% of PNC members and 12.5% of Cabinet members in 2020. There are no women on the PLO Executive Committee, despite the fact that they make up 11% of the diplomatic corps. Out of Palestine's 16 governors, only one is a woman, and only 2% of local council leaders are women.<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, there are only 20% of public prosecutors 19% judges are women, and just 1% of the boards for chambers of commerce, industry, and agriculture are composed of women.<sup>5</sup>

## Sexual and reproductive rights

Because abortion is restricted by law, women who seek abortion are forced to do it clandestinely. This leads to **unsafe abortion** that endangers the lives of women. Many women who cannot access safe abortion services have resorted to using traditional methods of abortion at home without medical supervision, which is a risk to their lives and increases the number of deaths as a result of the

complications of unsafe abortion, not to mention the other medical problems and conditions that could befall them as a result.

There is a **lack of comprehensive and integrated services in the field of sexual and reproductive health**. Most services are focused on providing family planning and maternity services, and prenatal and postpartum care. There are a lack of advisory services, preventive tests, and youth and adolescent-friendly services. Such services are even less common in remote areas, in addition to difficult accessibility for women with disabilities. Organisations for persons with disabilities note that women with disabilities are often subjected to a hysterectomy because their parents fear them being victims of rape and unwanted pregnancy.

In cases of pregnancy out of wedlock or resulting from sexual assault or incest, limited instances of abortion were permitted. The cases documented demonstrate great difficulty in providing safe abortion services under medical supervision. Many women avoid abortion for fear of dangerous complications and fear for their lives in cases of pregnancy out of wedlock.

## Laws on gender-based violence/violence against women

For Palestinian women in Palestine, **gender-based violence (GBV) has long been a top human rights concern**. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)<sup>6</sup> 2019 poll, 29% of ever-married Palestinian women reported having experienced GBV in some way in the year before the survey. In 2021, the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs estimated that GBV increased by 300 percent due to the pandemic.

The crisis' repercussions on society have evolved and changed as time has gone on but the elevated risk of GBV has not changed. For instance, while the initial shock and anxiety caused by COVID-19, which exacerbated tension within families, may have subsided, the economic hardship and unemployment brought on by worldwide inflation and because of the occupation have actually gotten worse over time.

There have been **29 incidences of femicide** documented by WCLAC between the start and end of 2022 (21 in the West Bank and 8 in the Gaza Strip). The current judicial system often makes it more difficult for women who are vulnerable to femicide to seek assistance and justice, failing to appropriately address the phenomenon. The application of the law is unclear and opaque due to overlapping laws, outdated and patriarchal Penal Codes, and other factors. Women face discriminatory attitudes when approaching the justice system, thus impeding their access to it. Police officials and judges often lack sensitivity in addressing GBV, refusing in some situations to address violence in the family context.

Very importantly, though, the Palestinian government has developed and adopted the second National Action Plan (NAP<sup>7</sup>) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security. The NAP creates a roadmap for the Palestinian government and civil society organisations to develop their interventions and allocate the necessary resources to implement this second-generation plan.

## Economic and social rights

The state of emergency during the pandemic had a **negative impact on the right to work**, and particularly on the rights of working women. The pandemic affected women more than other sectors of the population. The Labour Force Survey of 2020<sup>8</sup> showed that participation in the labour force in Palestine for individuals aged 15 years and older was 40.9%: men's participation was 65.1% versus women's participation at 16.1%. Unemployment rates for the same age group were 25.9%, with unemployment of men at 22.5% and for women at 40.1%. The results of the survey demonstrate that the services sector and its affiliates employed 73.6% of women in work, followed by the trade and catering industry employing 9% of women in Palestine. The businesses of 95% of women who run micro, small and medium-size enterprises were affected as a result of the pandemic, especially the food production sector (26%), embroidery (20%), hair and beauty salons, and kindergartens. Around 76% of working women in Palestine lost their income during the pandemic. These figures highlight the extent to which working women were affected by the pandemic.

**Unpaid household care work** is not considered part of the economic activity in Palestine due to the difficulty in measuring such work based on market value. However, this work has great market value and is estimated globally to be between 10% and 60% of the GDP.<sup>9</sup> Housework is classified as women's work and embodies the stereotypical view of women's role in society. Examples of unpaid work include cooking, cleaning, and care of children and elders.

In 2022, WCLAC developed a study (in Arabic) on **sexual harassment in the workplace** which aimed to shed light on the impact of sexual harassment on women's social and economic rights, as well as their psychological well-being.<sup>10</sup> The study shed light on the economic, social, and psychological effects and repercussions on women in particular and the society at large, as well as the impact on the development and progress of society. It also reviewed the existing legal reality around this concept and how it is addressed in international and humanitarian treaties and charters, or in the regulations and laws in force in Palestine, in general, and in workplaces specifically.

## Vulnerable and/or marginalised populations

**Women with disabilities** are discriminated against by the provisions of the Personal Status Law. In addition, there is no coordination between the regular and the Sharia judiciary or with organisations working in the field of disability, and this has a negative impact on the ability of disabled persons to access justice institutions. Combined with the stigma and cultural prejudices about women with disabilities, the result is that disabled women are denied the right to access a fair system. No specialised survey has been conducted on persons with disabilities that includes classified and updated statistical data based on gender, age, type of disability, demography, socioeconomic status, and place of residence.

**LBTA women** face discriminations and live in fear of violence, including from their family. Because they do not conform to traditional norms regarding gender and sexuality, they are at risk of honour crimes.

## 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

### To the State of Palestine

- Adopt comprehensive legislation that prohibits all forms of discrimination and violence against women and amend all gender gaps in the relevant laws.
- Call upon the Palestinian Authority to abide by its obligations towards international conventions and treaties it acceded to through the adoption of progressive and non-discriminatory laws against women.
- Expedite enactment of the Family Protection Bill based on the five due diligence principles outlined in customary international law. Include a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, which includes discrimination based on gender and disability, and impose deterrent penalties against all forms of such discrimination.
- Call upon the Palestinian Authority to end the complex violence practiced against women while peacefully demonstrating, as there is an absence of protection of women in the public sphere, especially as these practices reinforce negative cultural perceptions about the roles of women and girls and their exclusion from the public sphere.
- Expedite a revision of the draft Palestinian Penal Law and its adoption in accordance with international conventions and references that guarantee human rights in general and women's rights in particular.
- End the political division and reunify the Palestinian government

organisations, including the executive, legislative and judicial authorities.

- Take serious steps to hold legislative and presidential elections as soon as possible, and elaborate an effective solution to ensure the participation of East Jerusalem Palestinians.
- Activate the role of the legislative authority, neutralising it from the local conflict, and work to unify the legal systems in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to ensure that all women and girls in the State of Palestine receive equal protection under the law.

## Recommendations to the EU regarding Palestine:

- Urge Israel to abide by its international obligations to ensure independent investigations of alleged violations and crimes committed by the Israeli army and security forces against Palestinian women.
- The international community must assume its responsibility and work hard to end the Israeli occupation and pressure the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL).
- Urge Israel, as the Occupying Power, to honour its obligations towards Palestinian women in accordance with the CEDAW, including general recommendation No. 30, as well as IHL, with a particular focus on the situation of vulnerable groups of women.
- Address the specific impact of Israel's violations of IHL and IHRL

on Palestinian women in its bilateral dialogue with Israel (e.g., via the Informal Working Group on Human Rights).

## ENDNOTES

1 "The Palestinian Basic Law is to function as a temporary constitution for the Palestinian Authority until the establishment of an independent state and a permanent constitution for Palestine can be achieved". See: <https://www.palestinianbasiclaw.org/>

2 State of Palestine: Gender Justice & The Law, 2018 UN WOMEN : <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/12/gender-justice-and-the-law-in-the-arab-region>

3 State of Palestine: Gender Justice & The Law, 2018 UN WOMEN : <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/12/gender-justice-and-the-law-in-the-arab-region>

4 Accessed in April 2023: <https://pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4186>

5 Accessed in April 2023: <https://pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=4186>

6 <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/default.aspx>

7 National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 are national-level strategy documents that outline a government's approach and course of action for localizing action on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. These documents outline objectives and activities that countries take, both on a domestic and international level, to secure the human rights of women and

girls in conflict settings; prevent armed conflict and violence, including against women and girls; and ensure the meaningful participation of women in peace and security.

8 Accessed in March 2023: [PCBS | PCBS: The Results of the Labour Force Survey, 2020](https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/Rainbow/Documents/Labour_Force_Participation%20Rate2020.html) ; [https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/Rainbow/Documents/Labour\\_Force\\_Participation%20Rate2020.html](https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/Rainbow/Documents/Labour_Force_Participation%20Rate2020.html)

9 Accessed in April 2023: <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2019/10/15/blog-the-economic-cost-of-devaluing-women-work>

10 Access the report via WCLAC's website: <https://www.wclac.org/>