

**أوراق عمل مشروع:**

**"تعزيز التعاون بين منظمات المجتمع المحلي  
الفلسطينية من أجل بناء الدولة الفلسطينية"**

**Policy Papers  
within the Project:**

**"Enhancing Cooperation among Palestinian CBOs  
to Strengthen a Future Palestinian State"**

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The views expressed in these policy papers do not necessarily represent PalThink's for Strategic Studies views.



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## **Introduction**

The policy papers of this book are part of the activities of the project “Enhancing Cooperation among Palestinian CBOs to strengthen a future Palestinian state”, The project aims at enhancing the collaboration and interaction between civil society organizations at the national level to provide scientific visions and policy proposals that support the building of the Palestinian state. PalThink conducted workshops to present and discuss these visions within policy papers dealing with various issues of interest of the Palestinian community. 34 civil society organizations in the northern and southern governorates of Palestine, have participated in the implementation of various initiatives within the project on several issues, to produce these papers as a major output of initiatives.

The participating organizations have targeted various groups of society in several previous discussion sessions in which these groups from all the northern and southern Palestinian governorates were gathered simultaneously through the Skype to discuss issues of interest to all parties and to come out with one Palestinian national voice.

These papers have been prepared based on the results of the discussion and dialogue that took place between the teams of each two partner organizations in both sides of the country. Therefore, these papers are not academic research papers and not strictly based on scientific research tools; that the goal of these papers is to document the efforts of the partner organizations in the discussion and dialogue and to monitor the recommendations that resulted.

Finally, the papers are arranged according to the topics, in which they are divided into six themes, each containing papers dealing with the issues within these theme.

### **Economic and Social Theme**

- "Promoting the Role of Women Working in Small Workshops"
- "Their Right to Work"
- "The Impact of the Division on the Social Structure of Palestinian Society"

## **"Promoting the Role of Women Working in Small Workshops"**

Organizations: Irada, the First Female Incubator in Palestine - Zaina Women Center.

Hebron, WB /Gaza

### **Abstract:**

### **Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper is based on a field initiative "Promoting the Role of Women Working in Small Workshops in Hebron and Gaza to Achieve Economic and Social Justice Based on the CEDAW and 1325 Resolutions and the Sustainable Development Goals" project included several activities to review international and domestic laws and policies that led to continued violations of the rights of women workers, which included the launch of the first National Policy Paper that promotes the promotion of the economic and social rights of the target group. The strategic goal of the Initiative To empower women working in small businesses to participate actively in policy-making and decision-making regarding their economic and social rights, which are mainly affected by the Palestinian state of division, based on the Palestinian Basic Law, the Labor Law, CEDAW, 1325 Resolutions, and the Sustainable Development Goals 2020-2030. Initiative Strategies

1. Holding two workshops in the West Bank on the rights of women workers.
2. Holding two workshops in the Gaza Strip on the rights of women workers.
3. Preparing and launching a research paper on the decline of the mechanisms of empowering women working in small workshops economically and socially in Palestine.
4. Issuing recommendations for participants from the West Bank and Gaza.

### **Recommendations:**

**First**, ensuring that none of the small workshops in the Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Economy are authorized without making an obligation to apply the Palestinian labor law and international humanitarian law to women working in small workshops.

**Second**, including the Palestinian labor law in any labor agreement with workers in small workshops, and for the contracts to be signed under the

supervision of the Palestinian Ministry of Labor as a major witness to the contract.

**Third**, Inviting the Federation of Palestinian Trade Unions and the Palestine Workers Union to form a special union for women working in small workshops.

**Fourth**, increasing and rehabilitate the supervisory staff in the Ministry of Labor, which monitors the application of the Palestinian labor law and international humanitarian law to women working in small workshops.

**Fifth**, establishing a steering committee from relevant ministries, trade unions, civil society organizations and representatives of women workers in small workshops to develop a national strategic plan to promote the rights of female workers in small workshops in accordance with international humanitarian law.

**Sixth**, increasing the awareness of women workers, employers and community leaders on the rights of women workers according to the Labor Law and international humanitarian law.

**Seventh**, creating a supportive community for the rights of women workers in small workshops through launching public awareness campaigns aimed at different and integrated groups of society.

**Eighth**, strengthening the role of community and local media to consider the issue of the rights of women workers in small workshops as a public opinion issue and follow up with decision makers at the local and national levels.

**Ninth**, increasing the representation of women workers in small workshops in the General Federation of Trade Unions and the Union of Workers of Palestine.

## **"Their Right to Work"**

Organizations: Palestine National Agency for Family Care- Seeds for Development and Culture

Gaza- Nablus

### **Abstract:**

### **Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper discusses the problem of unemployed graduates in Palestine, as it confirmed that the youth category is the basis of the development process in society and the most critical group in society. But unemployment was the major obstacle facing these young people, add most graduates to the army of the unemployed, so we cannot invest the energies and minds of youth in a meaningful way. As a result, this initiative came to shed light on this problem.

### **Findings:**

An initiative was implemented (Right To Work) by holding eight awareness workshops in Gaza and the West Bank, it targeted a number of graduates from different Palestinian universities and educated them in many fields such as the concept of entrepreneurship and its role in reducing the problem of unemployment, vocational and technical education and talked about the necessary skills that graduates should acquire in order to work on freelancing websites, and educated students on how to choose the specialization needed by the labor market . Moreover, it talked about the role of civil society organizations in building trained youth cadres

### **Recommendations:**

We must study the problem of unemployment carefully and analyze it and then develop a comprehensive plan to face the challenge of unemployment, called for a dialogue that encourages the public and private sectors to invest , work to establish the Palestinian local market and work to revive it, create competition, transparency and control over recruitment processes , also graduates must bear a part of the responsibility in building a personality capable of developing and taking responsibility, improve skills in their specialty, love of knowledge, find solutions to any problem their face.

However, it recommended the necessary support to undertake rehabilitation and training programs for graduates to engage in the local market with the partnership between government, the private sector, and graduates. And called for the need to coordinate between civil society institutions and academic institutions, to improve the educational system and develop, by adopting the practical side as part of the academic plan to the theoretical side to enhance the level of students professionally. Finally, it recommended creating specialized centers to support small projects for young people and the importance of a fund to transfer youth ideas to new production projects that pave the way for them to build their future and to promote the economy of the country.

## **"The Impact of the Division on the Social Structure of Palestinian Society"**

Organizations: Youth and Environment Association - Friends of  
Community Vision

Deir Albalah, Gaza - Jenin, WB

### **Abstract:**

Purpose/methodology– This policy paper discusses the spread of a phenomena created by the Division in society, which has become part of its culture, such as the use of violence and chaos, and the state of deterioration in awareness of the concept of citizenship and belonging to young people no longer accept the idea of independent people, and transform the national affiliation of the party and its repercussions on unity, and ways Treatment and dissemination of the culture of acceptance of the other; therefore, the problem of research study is the following main question: The social structure of the Palestinian society and its reflection on the levels of citizenship and affiliation of the University Youth in Palestine? The importance of the research paper lies in the importance of the topic that was presented to the sample research study consisting of (200) searched and discussed, and the research paper adopted the tool of the in-depth interview with focused focus groups through the discussion workshops with eight focus groups from Deir el-Balah city and Jenin city for three Different groups (youth, women, community activists). The research paper attempts to identify the impact of the Division on the social structure of the Palestinian society, the problematic relationship between the two parties and their consequences for society, the phenomena that afflict society, and the attempt to reach deep into the rift and fragmentation situation. The study aimed to try to understand the phenomenon from the perspective of the university youth and graduates as the group most affected by the division and to identify the problem of the relationship between the Fatah and Hamas movements and its impact on relations within the Palestinian family and to monitor the impact of the Palestinian division on the Nature of family relations of Palestine and the idea of belonging to young people. The research paper used qualitative research, as the curriculum is reflective of the human world and is concerned with how to understand, interview,

experience, and the human presence itself in research, and qualitative research allows the participants to participate in the search for the truth.

### **Findings:**

The paper found the need to create a youth movement and lobby for political leadership through an influential Youth Parliament under the auspices of an international Arab coalition that will play its role in setting youth priorities, and the research paper has found the importance of everyone admitting that he is mistaken and the need to seek to regain the confidence that was struck in By raising awareness and educating young people about the culture of citizenship. The paper also found the need to strengthen the national identity of the Palestinian national project, to move away from partisan identities and to carry out extensive national media campaigns using all available means. The research paper has been divided into three main sections:

1. Social repercussions of Division
2. Social inequality and the absence of justice
3. The crystallization of phenomena that are alien to society

### **Recommendations:**

This paper recommends creating a youth movement and lobby for political leadership through an influential Youth Parliament under the international Arab coalition that will play its role in setting youth priorities, regaining confidence by raising awareness and educating young people about the culture of good citizenship.

### **Youth Role Theme**

- "Youth Vision towards the National Policy Agenda 2022"
- "Youth Right in the City"
- Youth and Division: "I'm A Patriot"
- Ways to Enhance the Role of Youth in Policy Dialogue, Reconciliation, and Unity in the Palestinian Governorates: "Raise Your Voice"

## **"Youth Vision towards the National Policy Agenda 2022"**

Organizations: The Arab Center "ACTIVIST" - Human Rights and  
Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"

Gaza- Ramallah, WB

### **Abstract:**

**Purpose/methodology/–** In 2016, the Prime Minister launched the "National Policy Agenda for the period "2017-2022" under the slogan "Citizen First", which was considered as the national program of action for achieving freedom and prosperity. The national policy agenda was based on three main axes: The path toward independence, reform, and improvement of service quality, sustainable development.<sup>1</sup> After two years of the launch of the national policy agenda, there has been no change in the Palestinian situation at the level of the main policy agenda. The Palestinian division is still in place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The citizen continues to pay for the policies, laws, decisions and executive regulations that serve the interests of both parties of the division and enhances it.<sup>2</sup> This research aimed to review and examine the effectiveness of national priorities from the perspective of young people and to provide youth insights from the West Bank and Gaza Strip towards the loopholes in policy interventions of national policies. This paper relied on the descriptive analytical approach based on the review of previous and related documents, the relationship and national dialogues that targeted a sample of young people reached (250 young) of both genders. The methodology for preparing the research paper was based on the following:

- Revision of previous documents
- Review of the National Policy Agenda and Government Decisions
- National youth dialogues.

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<sup>1</sup> Wafa, Palestinian National Information Center-Wafa, October 2017, Foreign Trade, [http://info.wafa.ps/ar\\_page.aspx?id=9255](http://info.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=9255)

<sup>2</sup> Ahmed, Awadallah, 2017, The weakness of the Palestinian productive sectors and its impact on exports, Al-Azhar University, Palestine, page

The target group of the research paper stressed the need to develop the strategy of providing services to citizens within a participatory methodology that ensures the participation of all groups of society. They also emphasized on the need to develop policy interventions that ensure the government's annual budget publication.

### **Recommendations:**

Youth Recommendations towards the National Policy Agenda 2022:

- Those responsible of the national policy agenda are called upon to use historical Palestine instead of the occupied Palestinian territories in 1967 and not to refer to East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine but the whole Jerusalem.
- The Palestinian refugees are an integral part of the Palestinian people. The Prime Minister must commit to improving their situation in all their places of residence to be responsive to the values of human dignity. This requires that the national policy agenda be included in the package of services to be provided to the refugees.
- The need to clarify the political interventions related to the periodicity of the elections and ensure fair representation of the youth category
- The need to include the agenda for political interventions that would provide the Prime Minister to comply with the requirements of transparency in the preparation and publication of the general budget and disclosure on schedule
- Calling upon those on the national policy agenda to develop political interventions that would provide a modern law on the right to access information and enhance the transparency of the work of the Palestinian government.
- The need to include political interventions to ensure integrity in appointments to senior positions and the elimination of corruption in appointments in public.
- The national policy agenda must consist of a clear definition of the nature of financial management oversight institutions and how to enhance their independence and impartiality in carrying out their tasks.

- One of the most critical political interventions that must be included in the national policy agenda is disclosure and public disclosure policies on the total public debt and its details and how to reduce public debt through a national participatory plan.
- Adopting policy interventions that can reset the compass of the Palestinian national economy into productive production is a national priority that must be included in the national policy agenda.
- The availability of political interventions capable of adapting the requirements of the labor market to the nature of the specializations and admission criteria for the various disciplines in Palestinian universities is an urgent necessity to provide decent work opportunities for young people.
- The national agenda should include political interventions that will provide financial and technical facilities for entrepreneurial entrepreneurs while ensuring policies that protect them against unfair competition with large corporations.
- The national policy agenda should include political interventions that are free from the Paris Economic Agreement and which reinforce the dependence of the Palestinian economy on the occupied Israeli economy.
- Political interventions should consist of protection for farmers through price consolidation and the provision of soft lending funds to support agricultural cooperatives in rural areas.
- The national policy agenda should include political interventions related to the protection of farmers in times of war and disaster.

## **"Youth Right in the City"**

Organizations: Witness center- The Palestinian center for democracy and  
Conflict Resolution

Nablus, WB- Gaza

### **Abstract:**

### **Purpose/methodology:**

Our initiative aims at capturing the youth's perceptions and attitudes in terms of the public response to the current and future rights and duties of youths. Four dialectic workshops were conducted, all relevant to council rights of youths including: cultural, economic, and developmental. Also, mechanisms to integrate youth and activate their participation in the planning and decision-making process at the level of municipal bodies.

### **Recommendations:**

Institutionalizing the youth councils in the municipalities of Nablus and Alzahra and enhancing interaction between them. Developing the rules and regulations of both municipalities to ensure better youths' rights in their local municipality structure and programs in a sustainable manner. Empowering youths by ensuring their active participation in areas of infrastructure and environment, economic development, management, and good governance, rather than planning committees with no community development role.

## **Youth and Division: "I'm A Patriot"**

Organizations: United Cultural and Social Society - Zimam Palestine

Rafah, Gaza - Nablus, WB

### **Abstract:**

**Purpose/methodology–** First of all, the geographical split between the West Bank and Gaza has played a significant role in dividing the Palestinian youth into both sides from having any form or type of communication. Throughout 13 years of Geographical Split between both sides, all kinds of communication between the youth disappeared, and a new generation that has never met any Palestinian from the other hand was born. The fact that both sides are under Israeli occupation played a huge role too. Due to the following factors, many young Palestinians started working individually to create and build a contact bridge between each other (West Bank and Gaza). This initiative works on a significant and sensitive case on both sides. It is supposed to create one destination for the participants from both sides and to discuss social issues that youth faces like Immigration and identity. The goal is to move out of the split and to create an open space where both sides can share knowledge and experiences freely, to empower the communication between the youth in the West Bank and Gaza. It is also essential that young people from both sides were enlightened about their rights, political activism and how can they serve their communities, to make a change and to move a step towards a healthier Palestinian situation. The initiative also focused on raising awareness for the youth about historical Palestinian places that have a value in the Palestinian society.

**Findings –** This policy paper is based on field initiative that collected the following facts:

1. The Israeli Occupation and the political split made a significant effect on young people's knowledge from both sides. The experience became very limited and narrow.
2. Most of the young people from the West Bank and Gaza have never communicated with another young person from the other side.
3. The youth suffer from lack of knowledge about their own identity and are unable to decide or define their perspectives from the PA and the PLO

and the political parties, but it was straightforward for them to identify the Israeli occupation.

4. The youth suffer from significant and cumulative problems in both the West Bank and Gaza, but the type, shape, and degree of severity of these problems vary from region to region. While young people in the West Bank see Israeli occupation breaking into their villages and violating their freedoms, young people in Gaza know the occupation is continuing to siege and deprive them of the most fundamental rights, and each of them is involved in the problem of unemployment, poverty, and lack of opportunities and power.

**Recommendations–** This policy paper recommends that young people from the West Bank and Gaza should be boosted and cheered up to participate in similar projects and initiatives like “I am a Patriot.” It is also essential that the youth explain and express their point of views freely, honestly and without any borders, to get a clear vision of what they believe and what they need. Empowering the youth sector is highly recommended too, and by that we mean: Supporting individual and collective youth projects that work on raising the social and economic youth capacities and providing the necessary support and guidance to them.

- 1- Pressing bodies of youth that work on following up the youth laws.
- 2- Providing a safe and continuous communication space between young people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- 3- Pressure on the Israeli occupation to facilitate the movement of young people from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip and vice versa.
- 4- Raising awareness of youth on national issues from both sides by providing some specialized and joint training.
- 5- Working to attract businessmen to invest in Palestine and to provide the necessary facilities for them; to contribute to the revitalization of the Palestinian economy and providing job opportunities to reduce unemployment among young people.

**Ways to Enhance the Role of Youth in Policy Dialogue,  
Reconciliation, and Unity in the Palestinian Governorates: "Raise  
Your Voice"**

Organizations: Amjad Association for Creativity and Community  
Development Palestinian -Working Woman Society for Development  
Gaza- Tulkarem, WB.

**Abstract:**

**Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper discusses the reality of the political participation of youth in civil peacemaking and their integration into the policy dialogue, reconciliation, and unity in the Palestinian governorates, and presented the effects on youth as a result of the continued division. This paper is conducted as a conclusion of joint dialogue sessions led by youth activists, university students, and students' councils, by Skype technology between north and south governorates. This initiative addresses the issue of youth representation in reconciliation committees and civil peace building, and to enhance youth leadership and activate their role in promoting civil peace and ending the division and raise their voice to decision makers. The discussion sessions discussed the reality of youth in the Palestinian society and the effects of division on all aspects of life, the role of civil society institutions and political parties in promoting youth participation to lead the process of change and policy dialogue.

**Findings:**

This paper issued within a sensitive conditions in Palestine, as Palestinian cause approaches critical juncture, with an absence of the political horizon, continued occupation with the trial of "Liquidation" of Palestinian Cause, continued settlement policy in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem, continuous assaults on Islamic and Christian sanctities, in addition, the suffering of the siege and division, in which have left an unprecedented humanitarian, economic and social reality.

### **Recommendations:**

The paper recommends contributing to the development of youth participation in achieving reconciliation and civil peacemaking. Most importantly, is the need to raise the national awareness among youth and raise their capacities in policy dialogue in order to crystallize youth and popular pressure for reconciliation and Palestinian unity, raise the voice of youth to decision-makers, and Influencing Decision-Makers to increase the level of representation of youth of both sexes at all political levels.

### **The Role of Women Theme**

- "Women's Right to Political Participation and Decision-Making"
- The Effects of Division Over Social Participation for Women: "One Homeland"
- The Impact of Psychological Violence on Palestinian Women

## **"Women's Right to Political Participation and Decision-Making"**

Organizations: Family development association - Hiwar for Community Development Association

Northern Gaza, Gaza- Ramallah ,WB

### **Abstract:**

### **Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper discusses the participation of women in political life has become an urgent necessity in our time, and in order to participate in the process of comprehensive and sustainable development of the society, considering that the political participation of both sexes is a behavior aimed at influencing the decision-making process and one of the most important indicators of sustainable development, democracy, and transparency in civilized societies. The distinguishing feature of its participation in public life is a clear indication of the development of people. Despite the long history of Palestinian women's participation in the struggle and their early involvement in political factions and parties, unfortunately, they have not had an impact on improving their political involvement in general. This participation remains weak compared to men's involvement and is mostly excluded from the decision-making positions of these parties. Find women at the bottom of the list and tasks entrusted to strengthen their social and reproductive role so that the beginning of the reform must be the beginning of the political parties and trade unions and chambers of commerce in various. Let's start with a healthy and systematic change.

### **Findings:**

The topic of women's political participation was chosen according to the results of the recent local elections, which were analyzed by the Central Election Commission. Without the quota of 20%, women would not be elected to municipal and local councils. The agreement and the signing between the parties and women's institutions that the participation of women in the elections by 30%, but did not commit parties, whether parties left or right agreement, it was necessary to stand on these results and understanding based on the reality experienced by women in Palestine. In fact, the experience of Palestinian women rich and large in their social and

political struggle and from an early period against the successive occupation of Palestine, therefore, the political participation of Palestinian women should be distinct from the involvement of other women in other societies because of their attachment to the national action that pushed them into the political arena, Social status and make them forced to be in the public sphere to do their duty towards the country and her family that the proportion of women's political participation is modest and low compared to the number of sacrifices made by Palestinian women throughout the history of struggle, and through The actual amounts and percentages, we find that women's participation and representation in leadership positions and actors in decision-making does not represent the relative weight in the population.

### **Recommendations:**

Through our presence in public life and from the observations we see in the street, home practices, and state institutions. There is a decline in the political and developmental participation of women within the Palestinian society and through the tribal form which was distributed to the participants. We found that one of the main obstacles to women's access to the industry is customs and traditions. The inferiority of women, the general political situation, division, poor economic situation, gender discrimination, and unfair laws.

## **The Effects of Division over Social Participation for Women: "One Homeland"**

Organizations: Ferdous for Child and Women Development - Palestinian Cultural Enlightenment Forum "Tanwer"

Deir Albalah, Gaza - Nablus, WB

### **Abstract:**

**Purpose/methodology/–** This policy paper discusses the effects of division over social participation for women" we, here at the Al-Ferdaus Society for the Development of Women and Children", have conducted a research paper titled "The Impact Societal Division has on the Political Participation of Women" Which was finalized sometime after our partnership with the "Palestinian Enlightenment Forum" which helped to construct and complete the "One Nation Initiative" project's activities. The policy paper is based on the field initiative "One Nation Initiative" is a smaller part of the "Enhancement of Cooperation Methods Between NGOs in the Population" project, which discusses real-life scenarios and facts about the participation of women in political life and decision-making.

**Findings–** Through the initiative, we have conducted several workshops under different themes, namely, educating women about their political rights, according to international conventions, the CEDAW convention, and the Security Council resolution 1325, which included topics regarding the protection of women, women's right to nominate, the access to decision-making seats, women's reluctance towards participating in political matters and finally the need for women's participation in decision-making. All are collectively leading us to the concluding realization that the political participation rate of women is very small relative to the supposed standard rate according to the stipulated international agreements.

**Recommendations–** There is a need to make heard the voice of women to decision makers. This policy paper recommends to involve women in legislative and presidential elections and the need to include them in Palestinian reconciliation rounds to end the division that negatively impacts the various segments of society especially that of which relates to women.

## **The Impact of Psychological Violence on Palestinian Women**

Organizations: Fares AlArab for Development- Bait Byout" Association

Gaza.- Ramallah, WB

### **Abstract:**

### **Purpose/methodology:**

This research paper discusses the impact of psychological violence on Palestinian women. After conducting a series of workshops and talking sessions with many of the citizens, we find that psychological violence is the most dangerous kind of violence and it is the most common one. However, psychological violence is the hardest kind of violence to approve; society underestimates it. The purpose of this paper came out from this crucial point, which highlights the impact of the psychological violence on women and society.

### **Findings:**

The most important findings for the causes of psychological violence are; the patriarchal society, the bad economic situation especially for women, abusing the religions and misunderstanding some of the religious texts and speeches, the widespread of the violence against women, the absence of laws which should protect women and the delay in enforcing the law, and traditions and customs.

### **Recommendations:**

The paper major recommendations are raising youth and family awareness, Safe Houses with high privacy and equality, integrate women rights in curriculums, activate the role of women's institutions and organization, advocacy campaigns to amend laws and renew the religious speech, and coordinate with tribe's head to raise the awareness of non-violence against women culture. Also, using the arts and literature to highlight the women importance, and its role in raising awareness and reducing abuses against women.

**Media Theme**

- "Towards the Real Compass of the Palestinian Media"
- "Best Practices to Change the Negative Stereotypes between People in Palestine"

## **"Towards the Real Compass of the Palestinian Media"**

Organizations: Bunyan Association for Community Development- Arab  
Women for Jerusalem

KhanYounis, Gaza- Jerusalem

### **Abstract:**

**Purpose/methodology/–** This policy paper aims to rectify the compass of the Palestinian media towards neutrality and professionalism to achieve the general national interest, after the effectiveness of division in the Palestinian society on media. This paper was formulated through the outputs of 3 workshops with journalists, researchers, and students of the Faculty of media, during which they discussed five main ideas:

1. How to achieve neutrality and professionalism in the Palestinian media.
2. Obstacles on the ground that limit this professionalism.
3. How can the press treat the effects of political, social and economic division?
4. Progressive ideas, initiatives, and activities for neutral media.
5. Code of Conduct on the neutrality of the press.

**Findings –** The research paper concluded with a number of results, the most important of which are: The Caucus media contributed to strengthening and deepening the Palestinian division and increasing the gap between the two parties. The media became a tool and means in the hands of the two parties of the division, which are used to achieve their partisan goals, accordingly, the media lost the neutrality and did not comply with controls and ethics of professional journalism. The party media disseminate a group of terms and phrases that were new to the Palestinian society, which would instigate hatred, incitement, and tension among the members of the community. There was a decline in the Palestinian media attention to the general national issues that concern all the people on account of the narrow partisan issues that would perpetuate division and imposed a set of procedures, restrictions and practices in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank contributed to limiting the freedom of the press and media.

**Recommendations—** The research paper recommends the following: Formulating a code of conduct that includes a set of rules and ethics that contribute to the achievement of neutrality and professionalism in the media work, which is voluntary and morally committed by all media professionals. Formulating a joint committee through the Journalists' Syndicate that includes credible and impartial journalists, to monitor the media and follow up media events, and to treat all statements that create a state of tension, confusion, congestion and devote the seeds of hatred among the one home people and deepen division. Work to support and strengthen the independent media voice substantive. Work to overcome the internal partisan media issues and focus on building a Palestinian media system capable of responding to the requirements of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Finally, fair and transparent elections should be held in the press syndicates and activate their role in monitoring and supervising media professionalism. And build information policy with close and far-reaching plans.

## **"Best Practices to Change the Negative Stereotypes between People in Palestine"**

Organizations: The Society of Women Graduate -Vision Organization  
Gaza –Jerusalem

### **Abstract:**

### **Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper aims to measure the influence of the occupation and the Palestinian division, and the existence of negative stereotypes among the residents of the northern and southern governorates in Palestine. Where these stereotypes emerged clearly between the people of Jerusalem and the people of Gaza through holding dialogue sessions carried out by Society of Women Graduates in cooperation with the Palestinian vision in Jerusalem through Skype between a group of young people of Gaza and the West Bank and Jerusalem. The survey was conducted through the publication of a survey designed as an electronic questionnaire published through social media means. The number of respondents from all governorates reached 82 respondents, 56.8% of females and 43.2% of males. 36.6% from the West Bank, 34.1 % from Jerusalem and 34.1% and 29.3 % from Gaza. An interview was also conducted with one of the young women who completed her studies at An-Najah University in Nablus, confirming the respondents' opinions.

### **Findings:**

The stereotypes in Palestine reflects the repercussions of the occupation, which distorted the stereotypes and the Palestinian cultural heritage. 62% of the respondents agreed that the Israeli occupation deliberately misrepresented the Palestinian cultural situation by deceiving some Palestinian cultural heritage, 31.7% Agree and 6.3% were neutral as they did not blame any party. Lack of direct contact between the residents of the southern governorates and the occupation created a situation of social disintegration and preservation of the Palestinian cultural heritage, 45.1% agreed, 24.4% disagreed and 30.5% were neutral.

### **Recommendations:**

The main recommendations and ways to overcome false stereotypes and misconceptions: Strengthening the communication mechanism of the Palestinian youth as a whole by supporting their initiatives and facilitating networking and cooperation among them, which constitutes an official umbrella for the establishment of forums and activities and activities under their supervision. Encouraging and support the youth as a whole and facilitating the coordination of mutual visits between the two parties in order to unify the two parts in Palestine geographically and culturally and allocate financial allocations in budgets at national levels for youth, primarily work in support of youth goals in establishing a Palestinian youth cultural bridge that brings together the Palestinian people.

### **Educational and Health Theme**

- "Problems of Education in Palestine - School Dropout"
- "Check to bloom"

## **"Problems of Education in Palestine - School Dropout"**

Organizations: Al Razi Association- Charity Education Forum

Jerusalem – Gaza

### **Abstract:**

**Purpose/methodology/–** This policy paper discusses the problem of school dropping-out in Palestine and discusses the policies implemented by the Israeli occupation that can be viewed as direct or indirect causes of the phenomenon.

**Findings –** It gathered the needed information through a series of workshops that were implemented in two Palestinian locations with different political and economic natures, which were taken as samples that can summarize the roots of the problem. The first set of workshops featured students, parents and community leaders from Jerusalem and Al Nuseirat village to take their direct opinions on the hardships they face and can contribute to the phenomenon. These groups were then brought together with decision makers from UNRWA, the ministry of education, and local and international NGOs working in the field of education in the second set of workshops. The second set of workshops, which were implemented in the areas mentioned above, aimed to put a spotlight on the day to day hardships that people go through and to discuss how these hardships compare to other regions in the country. This policy paper concluded that the economic distress caused by the policies of siege and restrictions implemented by the Israeli occupation on certain Palestinian cities was a major indirect contributor to the problem at hand. Moreover, in some Palestinian towns, students can't even reach their school campuses due to the proliferation of barriers that divide some Palestinian cities into small pieces and restricts people's mobility; This contributes directly to the problem at hand.

**Recommendations–**the above-mentioned causes can be combated with a clear national strategy aiming to dismantle the economic distress caused by the occupation, as well as creating an electronic educational system that can be an alternative for the people who might not be able to reach their school campuses due to the erected barriers.

## **"Check to bloom"**

Organization: Basmit Amal Association for Cancer care

Gaza and Jerusalem

### **Abstract:**

#### **Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper focuses on breast cancer, which highlighted the importance of early detection, where early detection is critical to achieve a full recovery, and the late detection results in heavy burdens on the patient and his family including the high cost of treatment and the obstacles to travel for chemotherapy and radiation which may lead to the death of the patient? "Basmat Amal" Foundation for cancer patients care launched the "Flower of Life" initiative entitled "check to bloom" in Palestine (Gaza and Jerusalem). The initiative addressed essential issues including the definition of the disease, its causes, its symptoms, methods of prevention and the role of food in the prevention and treatment. The initiative used unique and non-traditional methods including brainstorming, participation, discussion and dialogue, and the use of Skype meetings between women from Gaza Strip and West Bank to share experiences which contribute to raising their health awareness.

#### **Findings:**

The initiative targeted 580 marginalized women from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for one month and a half, in order to raise awareness of the early detection of breast cancer and train them to perform breast self-examination periodically through the implementation of 36 awareness workshops and distribution of 3000 awareness leaflets and mammogram screening at medical centers. Besides, the Initiative's team drew attention to the obstacles to the early detection of breast cancer by Palestinian women: social, economic, health.

### **Recommendations:**

It is necessary that public healthcare institutions should raise awareness to conduct breast cancer examinations and screening consistently. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the public healthcare centers to provide a mammography screening regularly (for free) mammogram tests with regular clinical exams and monthly breast self-examinations, all make the early diagnosis of breast cancer easier. Conducting more awareness raising sessions about breast cancer-symptoms, causes, and treatment. And finally, finding out solutions within the limits of the status quo and work to detect all the community fears and serotypes about breast cancer, and provide an appropriate health environment for patients.

**The Civil Peace and Social Justice Theme**

- "Hand by Hand to Protect the Right of Peaceful Assembly in Palestine"
- "The Impact of Palestinian Division on Civil Peace and Social Justice"
- "Towards A Better Civil Peace and Community Reconciliation"

## **"Hand by Hand to Protect the Right of Peaceful Assembly in Palestine"**

Organizations: The National Society for Democracy and Law- The National Commission for the Independence of the Judiciary and Rule of Law (Istiqlal)

Rafah, Gaza- Ramallah, WB

### **Abstract:**

### **Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper discusses the reality of the right to peaceful assembly in the occupied Palestinian territories during the period of the Palestinian political division. It highlights the main obstacles and challenges facing the implementation of this right. In order to prepare this paper, 10 joint discussion sessions were conducted between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, then including the outputs of these sessions in this paper, also, the international and domestic legal texts governing the right to peaceful assembly and the shortcomings of the Palestinian law in regulating this right have been reviewed. This policy paper discusses the importance of the peaceful assembly's right lies in its vital and unique role in the democratic system, which plays a role in guaranteeing the views and opinions that affect the public space by expressing them collectively.

### **Recommendations:**

Recommendations are the necessity to form a legal and political committee encompasses the formal and non-formal concerned institutions in West Bank and Gaza Strip to implement the right of the peaceful assembly.

## **"The Impact of Palestinian Division on Civil Peace and Social Justice"**

Organizations: Al-Atta Charity Association - Palestinian Center for Studies and Dialogue of Civilizations

Northern of Gaza - Bethlehem, WB.

### **Abstract:**

#### **Purpose/methodology:**

This policy paper is based on the field initiative entitled "the impact of Palestinian division on civil peace and social Justice on Palestine in partnership with the Palestinian Center civilizations for studies and dialogue - Bethlehem in December in cooperation with the Center for strategic studies Pal Think within the project "enhanced cooperation between the Palestinian community organizations in order to strengthen the future of Palestine state which funded by British consulate in Jerusalem. The initiative has targeted all society segments within 18 awareness workshops which implemented in two associations to deepen the National Democratic dialogue between naughty home and facilitate the link between home institutions in central issues for serving the Palestinian community to contribute in reducing of adverse effects for Palestinian division.

### **Findings:**

The initiative has included meetings and workshops with 450 beneficiaries, the proportion of Palestinian youth has represented 69% in Beit Hanoun and Bethlehem. The initiative was aimed at enhancing the importance of civil peace and social Justice in maintaining the social fabric, achieving social Justice and division ending that Palestinian society suffers from it, especially the culture of party violence. Besides, the initiative has discussed the factors that contribute to consolidating the principle of civil peace between the cities of Beit Hanoun and Bethlehem through spreading the culture of a unit and peaceful coexistence.

### **Recommendations:**

The initiative has provided a research paper which similar with a number of civil and social peace rules, and this is the contribution of us for strengthening the pillars of public peace to build a distinct civil culture about the dispute records on authority and their allies, and this culture has aimed to consolidate the social relations and achieve interests between the components of the community, and it stores the dimensions and political effects, in the homeland live off. The paper recommends putting visions and strategies which aims to unite National identity and peaceful coexistence between different social segments in Palestine after losing trust between its components as a result of national division and occupation.

## **"Towards A Better Civil Peace and Community Reconciliation"**

Organizations: Palestinian Center for Communication and Development  
Policy - Brilliant Tomorrow For Homes Sons'

Hebron, WB- KhanYounis, Gaza

### **Abstract:**

**Purpose/methodology–** This policy paper is based on the field initiative executed. The thing is that there are lots of civil and grassroots organizations in Palestine, and this proliferation promotes democracy and citizenship. However, these institutions and associations have significantly suffered and fundamentally from the political, social and geographical division which has affected their active role in promoting civil peace and Palestinian community reconciliation in line with the division. Therefore, this initiative seeks to launch the strategic document of civil society institutions in Palestine to activate their role towards civil peace and community reconciliation so that these institutions have an active and unifying role in reaching national unity and creating supportive citizenship that supports this orientation in both parts of the country. Challenges are 1. The weakness of the Arab role and specifically the Egyptian in ending the political division between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip 2. The Israeli and American support for the Palestinian division 3. The intervention of the countries of the region in the continuation of the political division.

**Recommendations–** As an effort by two institutions, one in the West Bank and the other in Gaza Strip, with the direct participation of 20 grassroots institutions that believe in ending the political division, launching this document includes the following articles: 1. Civil society institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are socially active institutions, which have significant contributions and influence in their societies and a change towards a better economic, social and political life 2. The civil society institutions of the project are multicultural and have multi beliefs. It has a long sought to promote opportunities in finding a political and social solution to the state of political and geographic division, which is one of the most challenging periods in the history of the Palestinian cause 3. Institutions of civil society, and grassroots institutions that accompanied the political and

geographic division, some of which are consistent with this division, without taking into account the importance of their role in improving the reality of their associations. They are societal service institutions that have no direct relation to the political dimension and have a strategic role in re-working on the concept of national unity under the circumstances and the global political variables that target the Palestinian cause 4. The civil society organizations have long sought to play an active role in building an independent and democratic Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. It has also worked effectively to reduce the impact of political division on the Palestinian society as an entry point to its primary goal of building a modern Palestinian state 5. Civil society organizations seek to address the political division and restore national unity and not to deal with the effects of political division because this perpetuates the worst division in the history of the Palestinian people 6. Civil society organizations believe that they have a strategic role in raising the awareness of citizens in their societies about the importance of partnership to reach civil peace and national unity in preparation for Palestinians to have an independent state 7. The civil society institutions of the partner call upon the official and signed parties to the reconciliation agreements and community unity to respect these agreements to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and devote themselves to the national cause of the Palestinian state by the resolutions of international legitimacy with Jerusalem as its capital 8. Palestinian civil society organizations call upon the Palestinian political, religious and community leaders to work together to end the suffering of Palestinians in both parts of the country by calling for the completion of Palestinian unity talks held in various parts of the Arab World (Riyadh, Cairo, and Gaza) 9. Partner civil society institutions consider that the adoption of the option of civil peace and national unity is the only option that puts an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people 10. Civil society organizations call on political leaders in the West Bank and Gaza to open up an active and positive dialogue and to put the interests of the Palestinian people high to reach national reconciliation 11. The project's partner institutions call on all Palestinian civil society organizations to work hard to urge decision-makers to adopt political and community unity as a strategic Palestinian option 12. Civil society organizations call on all Palestinian leaders to unite in rejecting

the deal of the century, which is trying in various ways to end the Palestinian cause 13. The civil society institutions of the partner focus on the importance of consensus on the Palestinian constants that all Palestinians, especially Jerusalem's citizens, and civil society organizations agree and insists on 14. Civil society organizations emphasize the importance of the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes of abandonment and that there are no alternatives to this option, as affirmed by the international agreements relating to the displacement of refugees 15. Effective dialogue and direct negotiations are the right and only way to achieve Palestinian unity and end the state of political division 16. Civil society organizations believe that the path to reconciliation must be to promote internal reconciliation first as an entry point for Palestinian reconciliation in general 17. The civil society organizations think that the participation of all political, community and national forces in the discussions on reconciliation and national unity serves the concept of Palestinian civil peace 18. Civil society organizations call on all Palestinian authorities to stop the media conflict through various media platforms.

**Partners organizations in the project**

#	Gaza Organizations	West Bank & Jerusalem Organizations
1	Basmit Amal Association for Cancer care / Gaza and Jerusalem	
2	Al-Atta Charity Association / Northern of Gaza	Palestinian Center for Studies and Dialogue of Civilizations / Bethlehem
3	Brilliant Tomorrow For homes sons society / KhanYounis	Palestinian Center for Communication and Development Policy / Hebron
4	Ferdous for Child and Women Development organization / Middle of Gaza	Enlightenment Forum Tanwer / Nablus
5	Arabian Center: Activist, / Gaza	Human Rights and Democracy Media Center SHAMS / Ramallah
6	The National Society for Democracy and Law / Rafah	The National Commission for the Independence of the judiciary and Rule of law (Istiqlal) / Ramallah
7	United Cultural and Social Society / Rafah	Zimam / Nablus
8	Zaina Women Center, a Palestinian female center for handicrafts / Northern of Gaza	Irada, the first female incubator in Palestine / Hebron

9	Bunyan association for community development / Khanyounis	Arab Women for Jerusalem / Jerusalem
10	Fares AlArab for Development / Gaza	Bait Byout association / Ramallah
11	The Palestinian center for democracy and conflict resolution / Gaza City	Witness center / Nablus
12	The Society of Women Graduates / Gaza	Palestinian Vision Organization / Jerusalem
13	Family development association /Northern Gaza	Hiwar for community development association / Ramallah
14	Charity Education Forum / Gaza	Al Razi Cultural and Social Association/ Jerusalem
15	Palestine National Agency for Family Care / Gaza	Seeds for Development and Culture/ Nablus, WB
16	Youth and Environment Association / Middle of Gaza	Friends of community vision / Jenin
17	Amjad Association for Creativity and Community Development / Gaza	Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development/ Tulkarem







Gaza, Palestine

















**Pal-Think**  
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مؤسسة تفكير وعمل فلسطينية

 Palthink  Info@palthink.org  +972 8 2822005  غزة - فلسطين

 Youtube/palthink  twitter/palthink  www.palthink.org

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