

**Pathways to Peacebuilding and the Promotion of Democracy and Civil Peace  
in Palestinian Society: Mechanisms and Strategies in the Recovery Phase  
(Mechanisms and strategies during the recovery phase)**



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**Project:**

PalThink Academy for Democracy and Human Rights

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### **Within the project**

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## **Introduction**

Over the past years, Palestinian society has experienced a state of instability resulting from the failure of the political settlement process, the internal Palestinian division, and the recurrence of wars as well as political, security, and economic crises. These factors have led to significant political and societal structural distortions, leaving profound repercussions on the Palestinian democratic experience and civil peace. This reality calls for the adoption of new policies and approaches to strengthen the process of building internal peace, protecting civil peace, and promoting a democratic approach in Palestinian society.

This paper addresses the pathways to building internal Palestinian peace, promoting democratic practices, and safeguarding civil peace during the recovery phase. It is organized into three main themes: the first provides a conceptual framework for peace, democracy, and civil peace; the second examines the key components of peacebuilding, democracy, and civil peace in Palestinian society; and the third explores mechanisms and policies for protecting the internal Palestinian front, resolving crises and disputes, and preserving political and social pluralism.

### **First: Social conditions in the Gaza Strip and their relationship to peacebuilding and civil peace**

The war led to catastrophic social and economic conditions in Gaza, where it destroyed social and family ties amid chaos and repeated forced displacement from one place to another. It also led to the dissolution of class differences after the entire society became one class, namely the poor, amid rising poverty and unemployment rates and destitution. The Israeli occupation's military attack on the Gaza Strip after October 7, 2023, forced about two million Palestinians to flee and migrate from their homes, representing more than 90% of the Strip's population, making it the largest displacement in the world. The suffering of the displaced in the Gaza Strip is not limited to the loss of livelihoods, property, and service facilities, and living in an inhumane environment due to starvation, the occupier's prevention of medical and food supplies from entering, and the targeting of water, sanitation, and electricity sources. The displacement, relocation, and transfer of displaced persons has created a new social environment that has negatively affected all displaced persons, including men, women, the elderly, and children<sup>1</sup>

The war has led to the almost complete collapse of all elements of civil peace, starting with the complete collapse of the Palestinian justice system, including the regular functioning of the civil police, the public prosecutor's office, and the courts at all levels, which have been targeted, bombed, and destroyed, crippling their ability to enforce order and security and protect the rights of citizens. This has prompted many of them to resort to personal, family, or organizational power to obtain their rights and resolve their disputes, and taking the law into their own hands and applying it personally, which has led to many cases of extrajudicial killings, some of which were carried out openly and spread on social media, as one of the

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<sup>1</sup> Nasser Al-Reyes, "The Impact of Displacement in the Gaza Strip on Social Life," Palestinian Empowerment and Local Development Organization, 2024, available at <https://goo.su/QJqSkO>

features of the security chaos that has become the most prominent feature of this dangerous phase in the history of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

**In general, the process of building peace and promoting democracy and civil peace is based on three main parallel tracks, especially for countries that may be facing a post-conflict phase or are in the midst of a breakdown of civil peace, as is the case in the Gaza Strip:**

**1. Conflict prevention:** This track relies on spreading and increasing awareness among members of society to ensure that no conflict arises, through the dissemination of a civic culture that encourages respect for human rights and the promotion of its principles, especially with regard to the rights of marginalized groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities, minorities, and promoting a culture of dialogue, understanding, and civil tolerance, as well as respect for democracy and acceptance of its outcomes. Young people can play an important role in this approach if they are equipped with the skills and community influence to spread awareness among citizens about the requirements of effective citizenship and the principles of human rights. This highlights the importance of civic education during crises that affect society and civil peace in particular, in order to limit the escalation and increase in fighting and lawlessness. This requires all civil society institutions, including the Pal-Think Foundation, to continue their work in education, training, raising awareness of human rights, and resolving disputes through alternative means, as well as adopting community initiatives that promote civil peace, respect for the rule of law, and peaceful dispute resolution through mediation, negotiation, and arbitration.

**2. Conflict management and resolution:** This is the skill of avoiding conflict within society as much as possible before it occurs, and then resolving those conflicts and disputes through peaceful means, in order to reach solutions that are satisfactory to all parties and achieve their interests. The main objective of this process is to minimize the negative effects of the conflict as much as possible, maintain and strengthen civil peace and positive relations within society. Conflict management and resolution involves identifying the causes of the conflict, understanding the perspectives of the different parties involved, and selecting appropriate strategies for the proposed solutions. This requires the rule of law and access to justice for all citizens, as well as the availability of legal remedies. Sometimes, this may include recourse to informal justice, such as traditional, tribal, and religious courts, as well as community customs and traditions.

**3. Community reconciliation:** Community reconciliation aims to build peace and restore cohesion within communities that have suffered from conflict or division. It focuses on addressing damage to the social fabric, promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence, ensuring the return of individuals and communities to normal life, and strengthening the rule of law and democracy through various strategies and mechanisms such as truth commissions, national and international commissions of inquiry, reparations and compensation programs, reform of

national institutions, and other transitional justice measures. We have seen important examples of many transitional justice measures in several Arab countries, such as Morocco and Tunisia after the Arab Spring revolutions, and in some foreign countries that resorted to holding international criminal tribunals to try perpetrators of war crimes, such as Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, and Sierra Leone, or truth, recognition, and apology commissions for crimes committed, such as in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **Second: The foundations for building peace and strengthening democracy and civil peace in Palestinian society:**

Among the most important fundamental elements on which the process of building civil peace and strengthening democracy in any society depends, and which should be given the necessary attention in a democratic system that represents all the diverse interests of its members and achieves the desired political, economic, and social stability for them, are the following:

### **- Protecting pluralism and strengthening Palestinian political partnership:**

Pluralism and genuine political partnership enhance the ability of societies to overcome adversity and challenges. The process of national partnership is also of great importance in the post-war period, given the scale of the challenges and difficulties facing Palestinian society as a whole.

The process of reforming the Palestinian political system is central to the transition to a new phase that facilitates national partnership in order to achieve the Palestinian people's national goals. The political reform process is expected to result in the renewal of the PLO's structure, which will include all national factions. In addition, reforming the institutions of the political system paves the way for the early recovery phase, which usually follows a ceasefire. The recovery phase requires the concerted efforts of all local and international actors, which can be more easily achieved in the context of political reform. More importantly, "political reform provides an important and effective environment for dealing with international actors and institutions to secure full and rapid funding to complete the recovery phase<sup>2</sup>

Political reform promotes transparency and accountability, strengthens the Palestinian people's trust in government institutions, and unifies political efforts among the various Palestinian factions through transparent and fair elections that promote national unity. This facilitates the development of unified strategic plans for reconstruction and development. Political reform can also ensure an inclusive government capable of coordinating with international parties to support the reconstruction process. Reforms provide an encouraging environment for recovery from the effects of war and strengthen confidence in national institutions, which is necessary for the development of a vision for the future. Without this, it will not be possible to achieve reform and partnership, unify efforts, and implement the necessary reforms in the political, social, and legal contexts.

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<sup>2</sup> Phone interview: Mazen Al-Ijlal, researcher and expert in economic affairs, Gaza, Palestine, July 15, 2025.

## **- Reforming the social legal system and institutional structure:**

Reforming the legal and social system and building institutions are crucial elements for achieving recovery and comprehensive national partnership after the end of the war on Gaza. The process of positive reform to reach this stage must be based on the following pillars:

**1- Legal reform:** The rule of law is one of the most important pillars of democracy and one of the most important indicators of civil peace and stability. The rule of law prevents the arbitrary use of power and ensures an organized, just, and equal society. The rule of law also guarantees the protection of citizens' fundamental rights and the achievement of justice, especially social justice, which ensures the fair distribution of wealth and opportunities within society. and legal justice for all members of society without discrimination or distinction, and achieves equality in rights, duties, and opportunities. A society in which people are equal before the law and everyone gets their rights without discrimination is a society where civil and social peace is achieved<sup>3</sup>The existence of a fair and independent legal system guarantees the rule of law and gives citizens a sense of legal security, which encourages investment and motivates the private sector to participate in reconstruction and development processes. A fair legal system also contributes to the protection of rights and ensures the equitable distribution of aid and resources, thereby creating a stable environment for recovery<sup>4</sup>. Reforming the legal system in Palestine is an important step in promoting the values of citizenship and national partnership by strengthening the rule of law and the separation of powers, thereby achieving institutional and administrative cohesion among all institutions of the Palestinian political system. The legal system in Palestine can be reformed by launching an emergency plan to rebuild the justice system in Gaza, including rehabilitating court infrastructure, restoring lost files and records, and ensuring the continuity of judicial services.

**2- Reforming the social system:** Social cohesion can be strengthened through programs that promote unity and solidarity among the Palestinian people, thereby reducing internal tensions and channeling energies toward collective action. Supporting affected families and rehabilitating and empowering young people and women also contributes to social stability, increases opportunities for national partnership, and creates common ground for work and cooperation. Reform of the social system in Palestinian society can only be achieved through the equitable distribution of wealth and aid and the launch of a reconstruction process in which all segments of society participate in shaping strategies, ensuring that young people, women, and persons with disabilities are not excluded. Social reform also includes working to alleviate the social and psychological burdens borne by Palestinian families during the war through specific interventions that help to address rising poverty and unemployment rates in Palestinian society and reduce alienation and emigration among young people.

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<sup>3</sup> Mohamed Galal Selim, Protecting Civil Peace in International Charters and the Palestinian Basic Law, International Commission to Support Palestinian People's Rights, 2023, p. 8.

<sup>4</sup> Interview: Raed Helles, consultant and researcher in economic development, Gaza, Palestine, July 15, 2025.

**3- Economic reform:** Reforming the economic system is essential for the reconstruction of Gaza and achieving comprehensive recovery by strengthening productive sectors and creating local job opportunities, where self-reliance can be achieved and dependence on external aid reduced, leading to the building of a strong and sustainable economy. Economic reforms that encourage local and international investment will also contribute to accelerating the reconstruction and development process<sup>5</sup>. Among the most important steps that must be taken for economic reform is restructuring the Palestinian tax system to take into account two factors: First, encouraging private investment, and second, social and economic justice, and seriously considering separating corporate income tax from personal income tax, which requires the establishment of a separate law for corporate income tax (profits), as is the case in many Arab and non-Arab countries, and working to rationalize spending and increase income, where there must be strong and clear political decisions that convince citizens that they must be aware of the situation and make sacrifices, such as a policy of limiting appointments and increases, and suspending salaries for those who are not at work or who receive salaries from more than one source, as well as reducing security budgets and correcting spending in the Gaza Strip.<sup>6</sup>

**4- Protection of human rights and public freedoms:** The protection of human rights is one of the most important guarantees enshrined in international law in all its components, starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1948, and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights issued in 1966. States have also enshrined in their national constitutions a set of principles relating to public rights and freedoms, which national laws must be guided by, protect, and guarantee the freedom to enjoy. The Palestinian legislature has not deviated from this trend, and has devoted an entire chapter to public rights and freedoms in the amended Palestinian Basic Law of 2003, providing them with the necessary legal protection. Article 32 of the Palestinian Basic Law stipulates that: "Any violation of personal freedoms, the sanctity of private life, or other public rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Basic Law or the law is a crime that is not subject to the statute of limitations in criminal or civil proceedings, and the national authority shall guarantee fair compensation to those who have suffered harm."<sup>7</sup> The protection of human rights and public freedoms in Palestinian society can only be achieved through the rule of law, the protection of freedom of opinion and expression, and the granting of freedoms of peaceful assembly and the formation of parties, associations, and civil institutions.

**5- Promoting a participatory approach:** A participatory approach in political and public life promotes increased rates of political participation through the spread of democracy and the peaceful transfer of power, and the holding of local, legislative, and presidential elections in

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<sup>5</sup> Interview: Dr. Raed Helles, *ibid*.

<sup>6</sup> Required Reforms in the Macroeconomic and Fiscal Policies of the Palestinian National Authority, Palestinian Businessmen Association, Gaza, Palestine, 2014, available at <https://www.pba.ps/contents/180.html>

<sup>7</sup> The Amended Palestinian Basic Law of 2003, Article 32.



the Palestinian political arena on a regular basis. Community participation is one of the most important factors for the success of development policies in any country, along with other factors such as sound planning, given the mutual benefits it brings to society, official institutions, and civil society organizations alike. In addition to strengthening citizens' trust in state agencies and institutions.<sup>8</sup>

**6-Strengthening the democratic approach:** Elections will have a profound impact on all current political interactions and processes in the Palestinian territories, namely the peace process, nation-building, and the democratic process<sup>9</sup>. A closer look at the overlap and interaction between the three processes—peace, nation-building, and the transition to democracy and civil peace—shows that the first process has been the most successful. The process of nation-building has been less successful, while the transition to democracy has seen setbacks in some areas. The policies and programs of the Palestinian Authority and donor countries reveal a hierarchy of priorities that places the success of the peace process above all other goals. The focus of donor countries on building the capacities of the Palestinian Authority's legislative and political institutions reveals a widespread belief that the success of the peace process requires political stability, which can only be achieved through the establishment of a strong central authority that guarantees political pluralism and peaceful recourse to the ballot box on a regular basis in order to ensure a safe exit from the current impasse.<sup>10</sup>

**7- Free, independent, and balanced media: Free and independent media play an important role in building civil peace and strengthening democracy in society by shaping public opinion and enabling citizens to access information and express their opinions and ideas, in light of the free flow of information, the era of open spaces, and the increasing spread and diversity of electronic media.**

Community media, owned and run by civil society organizations, is considered the most influential among the various media outlets, as it addresses social and cultural issues that directly affect people's lives. The emergence, spread, and success of community media has been aided by tremendous technological advances in social media, which is the main arena for community media that raises social issues and problems. Community media gives local communities the ability to express themselves, their issues, their interests, and the challenges they face. Promoting moderate media discourse in Palestinian society may indeed contribute to building civil peace during the healing phase after the war, which contributes to spreading a culture of tolerance, dialogue, and acceptance of others among all segments of Palestinian society, away from the language of extremism and the spread of violence, destruction,

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<sup>8</sup> Abdullah Al-Kuwari, "Community Partnership and Enhancing Belonging," Al Jazeera Blogs, 2022, available at <https://goo.su/8HoLZ7>

<sup>9</sup> Khalil Shikaki, *The Peace Process, Nation-Building, and the Future of Democratic Transformation in Palestine*, ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Khalil Shikaki, *The Peace Process, Nation-Building, and the Future of Democratic Transformation in Palestine*, ibid.



intolerance, sectarianism, and misinformation, which have contributed to the current state of division.

**8- Protecting religious pluralism:** Religious pluralism is based on the peaceful coexistence of different religions or sects, and relies on religious tolerance and respect for all religions or sects, protecting the freedom to embrace religious beliefs, and refraining from attacking, restricting, or imposing restrictions on those different religions, sects, or religious beliefs. Religious pluralism in Palestinian society can be protected during the recovery phase by countering the repercussions of extremist religious discourse through the promotion of cultural and religious tolerance in Palestinian society. Respect for religious pluralism ensures that there is no religious intolerance, prevents the outbreak of religious or sectarian wars or crises, and brings peace, harmony, and concord to society. It also prevents discrimination on the basis of religion or sect in all aspects of life in the state, especially in the assumption of public office at all levels, or political participation and candidacy for advanced leadership positions such as candidacy for representative councils, the presidency, or parliament.

**9-Protection of cultural pluralism:** Cultural diversity, which means the diversity and difference of cultures within a single society, encourages respect for, acceptance of, and promotion of cultural diversity, as well as the exchange of different opinions and ideas, which adds vitality and renewal to society, far from the idea of melting cultures into one culture, or denying, ignoring, obliterating, or abolishing other cultures. Protecting cultural diversity in Palestinian society through full respect for the culture, traditions, customs, and holidays of other ethnic groups or communities in society contributes significantly to maintaining civil peace, stability, cohesion, tolerance, and national unity.

**10- Gender equality:** Gender equality is a recognized human right, and the recognition of women's political, economic, and social rights on an equal footing with men is essential for achieving civil peace and stability. A society in which all members enjoy the same rights and opportunities, particularly in education, health, and employment, is a more stable, secure, and peaceful society. Violence against women, which is a form of societal violence, is a thorny issue that can have serious repercussions on civil peace. Promoting gender equality in Palestinian society contributes to social cohesion and the protection of public rights and freedoms during the recovery phase. This can only be achieved by granting women the right to political and social participation. When women participate in decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their communities, this contributes to social justice and equality, promotes stability, civil peace, social cohesion and solidarity, and reinforces the concepts of political participation in Palestinian society.

**Third: Policies and strategies for building peace and protecting civil peace in the Palestinian community**

In light of the many challenges facing the Palestinian people and cause as a result of the war and the continuing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and in light of the continuing internal Palestinian division, the absence of national consensus, the emergence of manifestations of national alienation, and the consideration of mass emigration, it is necessary to pursue a number of policies through which the challenges of the current phase can be addressed at the tactical and strategic levels, by seeking common ground and drawing on the experiences of previous nations. Among the proposed policies are the following:

**1- Ending division and achieving national reconciliation:** The concept of national reconciliation is one of the most multifaceted concepts in terms of synonyms, such as agreement between parties and restoration of relations. It is usually associated with many other concepts such as tolerance, forgiveness, and peacebuilding, and its meanings vary from person to person and from society to society. This difference is linked to the political, economic, social, and cultural conditions of each country. We can therefore say that Palestinian national reconciliation is a necessary condition for sound democratic development, far removed from narrow political calculations.

The peaceful management of the recovery phase will only be possible through the rapid and urgent end of the Palestinian division, the unification of the institutions of the political system, the holding of regular general elections, and the peaceful transfer of power. Ending the division has become an urgent necessity for unifying the Palestinian national ranks for the post-war phase, especially since the division and political differences have contributed to complicating the lives of citizens and affected the political participation of all citizens, especially young people and women.

**2- Peaceful management of pluralism:** Societies do not follow a parallel path, due to their nature and internal structure, which is directly reflected in their social, intellectual, and cultural progress, as well as their survival and sustainability.<sup>11</sup> Pluralism is one of the pillars of a normal political life, as a political system based on a single ideology cannot achieve political and social stability. Therefore, pluralism in the Palestinian context must be based on the acceptance of all shades of the Palestinian political spectrum in the structure of the political system, on the basis of respect for the law and the principle of periodic elections, the peaceful transfer of power, and the non-use of weapons in internal disputes.

**3- Confronting hate speech:** Confronting hate speech is of utmost importance in Palestinian society in order to protect civil peace and promote a culture of tolerance and dialogue among all Palestinian political and intellectual groups and currents. National and Islamic factions must play their part in promoting civil peace within Palestinian society by committing to a code of honor to stop incitement and hate speech and to spread an atmosphere of reconciliation,

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<sup>11</sup> Moath Alawi, "Justice and Freedom of Expression: Steps Towards Achieving Civil Peace in Society," Al Jazeera Net, 2018, available at <https://goo.su/PK0x5I>

tolerance, and harmony within Palestinian society, away from hate speech, incitement, and takfir.

**4- Rule of law and judicial independence:** The rule of law in modern society is one of the most important factors in achieving equality and justice in relations between individuals and groups. The rule of law means that all individuals are equal before the law. Adherence to and compliance with the law is a fundamental value for all members of society in terms of raising cultural awareness of the importance of adhering to the concept of law as a positive tool for promoting the values of equality and justice within any society, protecting and guaranteeing public freedoms, and ensuring their full enjoyment, and to achieve civil peace within any society. Restoring the rule of law and strengthening the judiciary and its independence in Palestinian society will contribute to promoting and protecting civil peace in Palestine, as it will enable the effective prosecution of anyone who threatens civil peace in society through their words or actions. This is the real gateway to achieving the principle of the rule of law and the separation of powers in order to build a cohesive Palestinian society.

**5- Transitional justice:** Transitional justice refers to the set of tools available, whether judicial or otherwise, to perform this task. While transitional justice focuses on the past, it also contributes to looking ahead to the future, as it heals wounds, promotes social dialogue, and strengthens the rule of law. Ideally, it also addresses the root causes of conflict, such as inequality and discrimination, and seeks to redress harm, prevent the recurrence of violence, and build lasting peace.<sup>12</sup> Transitional justice brings together individuals who come together to address the legacy of atrocities or end recurring cycles of violent conflict by developing a range of responses. These responses may include reforms to the legal and political systems and institutions that govern society, as well as mechanisms to uncover the truth about what happened and why, and to determine the fate of those who were detained or forcibly disappeared. The embodiment of the principle of transitional justice during the healing phase contributes to eliminating the legacy of the period of division and addressing its repercussions on the individuals and groups that were affected, thereby contributing to addressing gross human rights violations, building peace, strengthening the rule of law, and preventing the recurrence of violations.

**Protecting civil peace:** Civil peace in Palestine is threatened by external factors, most notably the Israeli occupation and its systematic practices of inciting strife, along with internal factors that include the absence of justice, ongoing division, and the lack of democratic practices, which deepen the crisis of trust and increase the fragility of the internal situation. Protecting civil peace is a top national responsibility that all parties, especially political parties, must take on. Based on this, the concept of civil peace is linked to peaceful coexistence between the ruling authority and citizens, and among citizens themselves, which means creating a system

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<sup>12</sup> “What is Transitional Justice,” TRIAL International, available at <https://goo.su/vW504aq>

of social values capable of containing conflicts and disputes. Strengthening civil peace is<sup>13</sup>. tantamount to social security and the cornerstone for building a cohesive Palestinian society during the post-war recovery phase. This can only be achieved by confronting hate speech, spreading a culture of tolerance and acceptance of others, respecting public freedoms, distributing wealth fairly, and promoting political participation for all segments of society.

**6- Social justice:** In light of rising poverty and unemployment rates and the spread of widespread famine during the war on Gaza, social justice is of great importance, as it is considered the common ground for achieving social peace among all segments and components of Palestinian society. It is not possible to achieve social justice without eliminating all forms of nepotism and favoritism, which are the basis for building negative social relations within society. Through the establishment of social justice, human dignity is achieved on the basis of humanity. In other words, every human being should be granted a certain amount of rights regardless of their contribution to the social process<sup>14</sup>. Social justice in Palestinian society can be based on the rule of law, the fair distribution of wealth and aid, giving all segments of society the opportunity to hold public office and access senior positions, combating corruption, exclusion and favoritism, and promoting the values of citizenship and national partnership.

**7-Developing education:** Developing the Palestinian education system (general and higher) in a way that promotes the interests of young people, their role and rights in society, with a focus on the humanitarian, national and democratic message of the Palestinian people within an education system that balances the needs of society and the individual aspirations of Palestinians under the principle of the right to education<sup>15</sup>. Interventions may also include launching national initiatives targeting youth and promote civil peace, such as strengthening national education programs and launching awareness campaigns to build community trust. The reality imposed by the war on basic education in Gaza now requires new policies that protect education as a top priority. As a matter of national and community security, the return to education in Gaza requires interventions based on a philosophy of education built on continuous improvement and performance development, providing temporary places to resume studies, such as public and private institutions and housing that is still fit for human use, focusing on basic subjects, and strengthening reading and math skills in the first stage of basic education.

**8-Strengthening civil society institutions:** Civil society institutions, or what are known as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), are a fundamental and very important component of any nation or state, given their role in promoting and supporting local and international rights

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<sup>13</sup> Talal Abu Rokba et al., Foundations of Civil and Social Peace in Palestine, Civil Coalition to Promote Civil Peace and the Rule of Law, Palestine, 2021, p. 22.

<sup>14</sup> Moath Alawi, Justice, *ibid*.

<sup>15</sup> Tayseer Mohesin, Towards a National Youth Plan in Palestine: Developmental Activities in Palestinian Society, Palestinian News Agency, working paper for the conference "Towards Youth Development Strategies in Palestine," Birzeit University, 2020.

and advancing the individual through the dissemination of knowledge, awareness, and a culture of democracy, They also mobilize individual and collective efforts for further social and economic development, influence public policy, and deepen the concept of social solidarity<sup>16</sup>. In recent decades, Palestinian society has developed civil society organizations that have performed many functions, including those normally performed by the state in normal circumstances. Most of these institutions have received the full support of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which saw them as the building blocks for a civil state. To strengthen the role of civil society institutions, several steps can be taken, including: raising awareness of the importance of these institutions; providing them with financial and technical support; enhancing their participation in decision-making processes; ensuring their independence and impartiality; and expanding their scope of work to include all segments of society.

### **Conclusion:**

In order to promote peacebuilding, democracy, and the protection of civil peace in Palestinian society, it is necessary to pursue a number of urgent policies that will strengthen the values of citizenship, human rights, and public freedoms, and the peaceful transfer of power, by rebuilding the political, legal, social, and economic system in Palestinian society after the war on democratic and pluralistic foundations, free from political and cultural exclusion. This will contribute to strengthening the participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups and promoting human rights and civil peace. Policies must also be adopted to strengthen social cohesion, and reducing the alienation of Palestinian youth, integrating youth into the reconstruction process, and launching an emergency plan to rebuild the justice system in Palestine, including rehabilitating the infrastructure of the courts and ensuring the continuity of judicial services, in order to maintain civil peace and confront the state of chaos. Emphasizing the importance of presidential, legislative, local, and union elections, in accordance with proportional representation, to enhance the political participation of all segments of society in the structure of the Palestinian political system.

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<sup>16</sup> Khaled Al-Dawwas, The Role of Palestinian Civil Society Organizations in Achieving Sustainable Development, PalThink for Strategic Studies, Gaza, Palestine, 2017.