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The Representative office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority

دولة فلسطين
وزارة شؤون المرأة
State of Palestine
Ministry Of Women's Affairs

Building Gender Accountability in Palestine - bridging policy gaps

UNESCO, The Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs officially launch a new program phase to support Gender Equality in Palestine: *establishing the Gender Policy Institute*

Ramallah, 27 July 2016 – The Minister of Women's Affairs Dr. Haifa Al Agha, the Norwegian Representative to the Palestinian Authority Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund and the UNESCO Representative to Palestine Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi officially launched the transition of the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre (PWRDC) into the Gender Policy Institute, a 'think tank' on gender equality unique in its own in Palestine and in the region.



The Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Centre was established in Ramallah in 2006 as a UNESCO flagship project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs

(MoWA) and with the generous support of the Kingdom of Norway, as the first of its kind in the region to promote for Gender Equality in Palestine.

The new 18-month project consists of two phases: the first, managed by UNESCO, is to facilitate the transition of PWRDC from its current setting into a flexible think-tank on gender policies, renamed as Gender Policy Institute (GPI). Once the GPI has an autonomous legal identity and enough resources in place to function independently, the second phase will commence which is its actual operation as a think tank.

GPI will be a non-partisan and autonomous entity which will produce, analyze and disseminate policies for the advancement of gender equality, monitor the effective implementation of public gender strategies, as well as help shaping a regional and national policy debate by connecting key Civil Society Organisations, academic institutions and scholars, multi-laterals and national authorities in a cohesive and collaborative manner. Thus, GPI will be a resource centre for formulating, reviewing and coordinating policies related to gender equality and women's empowerment.

H.E. the Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Haifa Al-Agha, expressed her thanks and appreciation to UNESCO and to the Government of Norway for their support in the establishment of the Gender Policy Institute and assured that MoWA would actively cooperate with GPI.

The UNESCO Representative to Palestine, Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, recalled that "Inequalities are deep-rooted in every society. Fighting for Gender Equality is a global priority of UNESCO and at the core of its mandate, as the empowerment of girls and women starts with access to quality education, to culture, to sciences and information". He also said that the Gender Policy Institute will be an "unique platform to join forces in Palestine and in the region for the successful achievement of gender equality and empowering women and girls in Palestine" (Sustainable Development Goal 5).

The Representative of the Kingdom of Norway to the Palestinian Authority, H.E. Hans Jacob Frydenlund announced the need to empower women to combat all kinds of gender based violence. He is looking with great interest to the Gender Policy Institute's role as a driving force for Palestinian women's rights.

For more information on GPI and on this event and on other events in Palestine, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Gender Equality project coordinator and Public Information Officer of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at m.beltaji@unesco.org.

More information on UNESCO's activities in the field of Gender is available at: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/gender-equality/

More information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine is available at: www.unesco.org/ramallah

More information on the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority www.norway.org.ps