United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE
2018/19
Ramallah, 6 December 2018

Hear Me Too: Voices against violence in Gaza through "Black Light" theatre performance and live music



Gaza City, 6 December 2018 – Within the joint UN and EU campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence - *Hear Me Too: Voices Against Violence* and through its EU-funded project "NET-MED", UNESCO supported the theatre play "Black Light", produced by the Gaza-based Theatre Day Productions (TDP) and performed through an all-female cast on the stage of the theatre in Gaza. Episodes from 'real-life' experiences were depicted on stage, followed by testimonies by victims of gender-based violence.

Both, characters on stage and victims who shared their voices of daily violence – young, senior, engaged, not-yet-engaged, married and single women – questioned themselves, their lives and their future ambitions, their role in the society and the impact of attitudes and beliefs. The event was concluded by a live music performance by the Gazan music group Solband.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, UNESCO Representative to Palestine, emphasized that *more efforts and work are needed when it comes to combating stereotypes and the structural inequalities within the Palestinian society and to advance Gender Equality*. He further stated that *throughout history, theatre has been continuously addressing complex issues, inspiring and moving people to social change and encouraging critical thinking.* He

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praised the courage of the women on stage and *their powerful voice in contributing to change mind-sets, behaviours and attitudes.*

The event was attended by Mr. Ayman Fteiha, the Manager of the European Union Office in Gaza, and by young men and women, local communities, representatives of national and international organizations, women's rights activists, UN agencies and international representative offices.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November – 10 December) is an international campaign which starts on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and terminates on the Human Rights Day. National and international partners will be hosting events in the West Bank and Gaza to show solidarity toward this global movement and to tackle violence against women and girls in Palestine. The 2018 activities follow the #HearMeToo theme, which aims to mobilize the voices of survivors of violence, activists, and all other stakeolders involved in preventing and ending gender-based violence.

For more information on the #HearMeToo: Voices against Violence campaign, please visit : 16 Days of Activism - Palestine and follow the hashtags #OrangetheWorld and #HearMeToo on social media.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit www.unesco.org/ramallah and visit us on : Unesco Ramallah Office

For more information on this event, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Gender Specialist of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at m.beltaji@unesco.org