Statement Issued by the
Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs

On 8th of March 2026 – International Women's Day

On the occasion of March 8, International Women's Day, which was designated by the United Nations as a global day to celebrate the struggles and achievements of women, and which this year carries the theme "Access to Justice," the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs extends its highest expressions of appreciation and pride to Palestinian women wherever they are. This comes in recognition of their pioneering national role, their legendary resilience, and their continuous contributions to the journey of liberation and nation-building.

Throughout the history of our people's struggle, Palestinian women have constituted a fundamental pillar in the battle for steadfastness and survival on their land. They have been true partners in resisting the occupation, in building the family and society, and in defending the national identity and the legitimate rights of our people—foremost among them the right to self-determination and the realization of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In this context, the Ministry of Women's Affairs affirms that the systematic violence faced by Palestinian women in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem because of the occupation's policies and its ongoing aggression constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Palestinian women have paid a heavy price, manifested in the loss of their children and spouses, forced displacement, the destruction of homes, and the deprivation of security, healthcare, education, and dignified livelihoods. The consequences of this aggression extend beyond its immediate material impact, reaching the psychological, social, and economic well-being of women, while further increasing their burdens amid extremely harsh humanitarian conditions.

The Ministry also condemns the crimes committed by settlers and their repeated attacks against Palestinian citizens, including women, such as raids, physical assaults, intimidation, the burning of property, and the destruction of agricultural lands, carried out under the protection of the occupation forces or with their complicity. These organized attacks constitute part of a systematic policy aimed at terrorizing citizens and forcibly displacing them from their lands. This reality directly impacts women, who bear compounded burdens in protecting their families and maintaining the stability of their communities.

The Ministry also pays tribute to Palestinian women prisoners in Israeli prisons, who are subjected to various forms of abuse, threats, solitary confinement, and deliberate medical neglect, in addition to documented violations that undermine their dignity and physical and psychological integrity. These practices represent a blatant violation of international law and international humanitarian law and require urgent international action to ensure their protection, secure their release, and hold those responsible for these violations accountable.

The Ministry also reaffirms its full solidarity with Palestinian refugee women in refugee camps inside and outside the homeland, who have endured the consequences of the Nakba and forced displacement for decades and continue to face difficult humanitarian and economic conditions. Despite this, refugee women have remained guardians of the national identity, transmitters of the Palestinian narrative from one generation to the next, and steadfast in their commitment to the right of return in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions.

The Ministry further affirms that holding the occupation and its settlers accountable for their crimes against the Palestinian people—at the heart of which are crimes against Palestinian women—remains a national and moral priority. The State of Palestine will continue to utilize international tools and mechanisms endorsed by international legitimacy, including engaging with international judicial and human rights systems and activating relevant conventions and treaties, to ensure that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity and to achieve justice and redress for the victims.

Building on its national and institutional responsibilities, the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs reaffirms its steadfast commitment to promoting the rights of Palestinian women, protecting them from all forms of discrimination and violence, and working to empower them politically, economically, and socially, in full alignment with the international human rights conventions to which the State of Palestine has acceded.

Within the framework of national efforts to reduce violence against women, the Ministry continues its work through the National Supreme Committee for Combating Violence Against Women, taking practical steps to strengthen the national preventive and protective framework, develop policies and legislation, and unify references and intervention mechanisms, ensuring the protection of women and girls and guaranteeing their access to justice and specialized services.

The Ministry also continues to support and develop the work of the National Observatory on Violence Against Women, as a national tool for monitoring and analyzing gender-based violence data, contributing to evidence-based policymaking, enhancing accountability, and improving institutional response capacity.

In line with the State of Palestine's commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, the Ministry affirms the continued implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its national plans, which strengthen women's participation in decision-making positions, ensure their protection during conflicts, and reinforce their role as key partners in civic peace, recovery, and reconstruction processes.

The Ministry emphasizes that the success of these national efforts cannot be achieved without genuine and effective partnerships with women's and human rights institutions, as well as civil society organizations, which have consistently served as essential pillars for women's issues and strategic partners in defending their rights and enhancing their presence across various sectors.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs also extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to international organizations supporting the rights of the Palestinian people, the principles of justice and human rights, and all entities backing our people's right to self-determination and the realization of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions.

On this day, the Ministry of Women's Affairs renews its pledge to Palestinian women that their issues and rights remain at the heart of national policies, and that it will continue to work tirelessly toward a society governed by justice, equality, and human dignity.

Happy International Women's Day to Palestinian women, the embodiment of steadfastness, dignity, and struggle.