FORUM: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

QUESTION OF: The Situation of Palestinian Women’s Rights

MAIN-SUBMITTER: France

CO-SUBMITTERS: Sri Lanka, Palestine, Iran, India, United States, United Kingdom, Kenya

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Bearing in mind* that Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) guarantees that everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person,

*Emphasizing* that Equality and Non-Discrimination are the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, which was adopted by world leaders in 1945 to respect all human rights,

*Recalling* that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) emphasizes that states parties should take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development, fundamental freedoms, and human rights of women on a basis of equality with men,

*Fully aware* that Palestine was officially recognized as a “non-observer member state” by United Nations in UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 67/19 in November 2012, and 138 countries voted for this resolution,

*Further recalling* the actions and assistance by UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Palestine to protect women’s full realization of human rights without any discrimination,

*Recognizing* that there are lots of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) and Equality Now, that are spread around the world to fight for Gender equality and support women’s rights,

*Deeply concerned* that 10 per cent of households in all Palestinian territory reported that women and girls avoid areas near Israeli settlements, checkpoints, community areas and markets, and public transportation because they feel unsafe,

*Fully believing* that, according to UN Women, Palestine women are continuously experiencing violence such as domestic violence, early marriage, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence, due to its patriarchal society,

*Mindful of* the recent Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics surveys on violence reported that 30 per cent of both married and previously married women between the ages of 18 and 64 experienced violence in their marriages,

*Reaffirming* that the 2014 Palestinian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), reported that 15% of girls in Palestine are married before the age of 18 and 1% before the age of 15,

*Deploring* that polygamy is still present and accepted as a culture in some communities of Palestine, men are allowed to marry more than one wife in accordance with Islamic law, and also allowed to divorce multiple times without any consequences,

1. Encourages all United Nations member states, various UN agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to provide direct support for Palestine women who are suffering or have suffered from gender-based violence, to alleviate consequences of gender-based violence in ways such as but not limited to:
2. Urging More Economically Developed countries (MEDCs), UN Women, OHCHR, and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to provide direct financial support to victims of gender-based violence in Palestine, in order to:
3. help Palestine women to become economically independent from men,
4. provide a safer environment for Palestine women, so that they can live in a well-protected environment,
5. Calls MEDC countries, UN Women, World Health Organization (WHO), and OHCHR to develop a program which provides free medical support for victims in Palestine who are suffering from the aftereffects of gender-based violence in ways such as but not limited to:
6. providing free psychological treatments, such as examination and counselling to the victims who are experiencing psychological symptoms such as Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder (PTSD) due to gender-based violence,
7. providing free physical treatments to the victims who are suffering from physical injuries due to gender-based violence to help them recover from those injuries,
8. Requires UN Peacekeeping to send peacekeepers to Palestine, in order to promote gender equality and prevent all forms of gender-based violence from happening in Palestine by:
9. providing strategic advice and guidance to facilitate political commitment towards increasing women’s participation across local, national and regional institutions,
10. strengthening capacities of national and local level actors through training and awareness-raising campaigns,
11. Urges organizations to enhance and fortify existing projects established by the UN regarding increasing the self-reliance of Palestinian women by:
12. promoting the women-headed businesses aided by the training centres, established by the UN in 2014 and supported by the World Food Program (WFP), on social media platforms to further support businesses run by Palestinian women and to stimulate other Palestinians to support the independence of women in Palestine,
13. broadening the opportunities for women in the job creation program, run by the United Nations Relief and Work Agencies (UNRWA), in order to increase the participation of women in Palestinian society;
14. Urges the government of Palestine to cooperate with MEDCs, UN Women, and OHCHR to improve their policies and laws about women’s rights to eliminate gender discrimination and promote women’s rights in society in ways such as but not limited to:
15. Suggest to legislate and amend laws that prevent discrimination and violence toward women in public, such as early marriage and gender-based crimes to ensure the protection of the rights of females such as:
16. the creation of a more efficient system of ensuring sharia officiants register marriage contracts for only men and women over 18 years of age and for marriages where both parties have given their full consent to be married,
17. divesting a sharia officiant of their officiant position, which includes revoking their license or any such methods of verifying the legitimacy of an officiant in order to ensure that they will be unable to legally officiate marriages from then on, in addition to the fine and dismissal they would receive if the sharia officiant were to fail at registering a marriage contract that follows the established laws regarding officiating a marriage,
18. modifying any laws that include discrimination, bias, or inequality to ensure women in Palestine can receive the same level of protection as men by equal law,
19. Asks the government of Palestine to build more surveillance facilities in the region where the related crimes are frequently happening, in order to reduce the crime rate in those regions,
20. Suggesting government of Palestine collaborate with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and International Criminal Court (ICC) to strengthen penal laws regarding gender-based violence in Palestine in order to significantly reduce the overall gender-based violence or crimes happening within the country in ways such as:
21. requesting the United Nations Human Right Council (UNHRC) to show the data collection and analysis to alert the seriousness of the current situation in Palestine,
22. urging ICJ and ICC to provide specific recommendations to the government of Palestine to reinforce punishments for gender-based violence, so that Palestine can significantly reduce the overall gender-based violence or crimes happening within the country,
23. encouraging ICC to conduct an investigation and a reasonable judgment for perpetrators of gender-based violence, in order to prevent further gender inequality in Palestine;
24. Invites the government of Palestine to promote education to prohibit stereotypes against women in society and provide an appropriate level of education for women in ways such as but not limited to:
25. Introduces the government of Palestine to research gender-based violence-related policies from MEDC countries to learn about the pros and cons of each policy, in order to get ideas for improving gender-based violence policies in Palestine,
26. Requests the government of Palestine to collaborate with UN Women, OHCHR, UNHRC, and NGOs to create a gender-neutral environment for students in Palestine by:
27. collaborating with various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including Plan International and School Girls Unite to provide higher education on gender equality, especially to children, guaranteeing exposure to a fair environment during young ages,
28. suggesting UN Women, OHCHR, and UNHRC to annually review and modify textbooks, lectures, and educational materials in Palestine to ensure gender inequality does not perpetuate,
29. calls upon UN Women to direct better teacher-training programs to secure an environment with as less gender inequality as possible by sending representatives from Palestinian headquarters to schools in Palestinian territory to educate teachers, as well as students if deemed necessary by the organization itself, at elementary school and above of the importance of allowing women their legal rights,
30. encourages UN Women and Palestine government to emphasize the importance of a woman’s legal right to her inheritance to the students in education, to prevent the common expectation of society expecting women to give their share of inheritance to their male relatives or husbands from continuing to spread down generations of Palestinians,
31. Requires NGOs, UN Women, and UNICEF to provide various educational materials to people in Palestine which can provide basic knowledge about gender-based violence happening in Palestine, and its seriousness such as but not limited to:
32. video resources,
33. reports,
34. news articles,
35. Suggests government of Palestine and NGOs run more training and education programs to provide more opportunities for women, so that they could learn more skills, be more educated, and feel more empowered to participate in economic and societal matters and therefore increase women’s economic power in society;
36. Requests the government of Palestine and UN agencies, such as UN Women, OHCHR, and UNHRC to cooperate with each other to form a new UN umbrella organization that mainly focuses on protecting women's rights and preventing gender-based violence in Palestine such as but not limited to:
37. Publishing annual reports that include comparisons and researched data by this organization about Palestine women that includes information that can be reviewed in the future, such as but not limited to:
38. statistics of Gender-based crimes happened against women in Palestine,
39. the five most frequently happened types of gender-based violence in Palestine,
40. status of women in Palestine society,
41. Encouraging Palestine government, UN Women, and OHCHR to hold a meeting together that has the purpose of sharing and discussing effective solutions to achieve full gender equality in Palestine such as but not limited to:
42. reviewing the annual reports published by this organization with UN agencies and NGOs about gender-based violence within Palestine to discuss future solutions,
43. creating guidelines for countries that include rules and instructions for protecting women’s rights to engage in social activities on the status of the annual reports,
44. Running fundraising program for helping women who need financial support by cooperating with UN Women, and NGOs around the world, such as AWID and Equality Now while also supporting, reaffirming, and promoting existing campaigns and fundraisers regarding the situation of Palestinian women,
45. Suggesting the local authorities of Palestine cooperate with NGOs, UN Women and this organization to establish accessible report systems such as reporting software system, or anonymous surveys, in order to safely provide appropriate helps to victims and separate them from perpetrators,
46. Reviewing various UN documents associated with women’s rights continuously with UN Women and the government of Palestine, in order to prevent the ideas of human rights from getting violated in Palestine such as:
47. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),
48. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),
49. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,
50. UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325;
51. Strongly Advises UN Women, OHCHR, UNICEF, and NGOs to raise awareness among people all around the world about the seriousness of the situation that Palestine women are suffering currently in ways such as but not limited to:
52. Requests NGOs, UN Women, and OHCHR to utilize various media platforms to raise awareness among people in MEDCs such as:
53. using Social Networking Service (SNS) to start up a new hashtag, which can quickly spread this issue to lots of people around the world,
54. broadcasting television news in various countries to inform the public about the current situation in Palestine,
55. creating online advertisements to raise awareness among the public who are accessing internet websites,
56. publishing news articles, which can provide sufficient information and emphasize the seriousness of this issue among the public,
57. Encourages the usage of various other methods to further raise awareness among more people who are not in touch with media platforms, like those in LEDCs, such as but not limited to:
58. creating posters and displaying them in public places,
59. publishing magazines which can show pictures and also deliver necessary information,
60. using newspapers to spread articles related to this issue to the public,
61. providing informational pamphlets to people in various regions, so that people can be properly informed about this issue,
62. Suggests the government of Palestine, UN Women, and NGOs run campaigns around the world to emphasize and inform the public of the seriousness of the current situation of Palestine women’s rights;
63. Calls upon all nations to urge the Palestinian government into treating cases of honour killings with the same seriousness as a homicide case in the following ways but not limited to:
64. ceasing trade with Palestinian territory if the eradication of honour killings will not be taken seriously by the government,
65. advising the Palestinian government in ways to efficiently prevent the continuation of honour killings with suggestions regarding:
66. the reconstruction of the conservative mindset of the majority of citizens who believe that honour killings are justifiable,
67. improving the protection and therapy services for survivors of honour killings as well as victims of domestic violence,
68. providing smooth passage for refugees escaping Palestinian territory into the member states in ways such as:
69. providing shelters with basic living necessities including food and clothes,
70. providing education and job opportunities for refugees to be able to provide for themselves in the future.