



09th of December 2018
Ramallah, Palestine
Statement

PWWSD condemns the explicit and public statement of Chief Justice Al-Habbash regarding use of violence against women

The Palestinian Working Women Society for Development denounces the public statement issued by Chief Justice Mahmoud Habash on the 5th of December; explicitly encouraging violence against women and girls as a type of discipline. This statement is significantly alarming not only because it's prejudicial against women and girls, also the timing of its release coincided with the ongoing global campaign to end gender based violence; "16 days of activism against GBV". The 16 days campaign is carried annually and worldwide by many feminist, governmental, humanitarian, and developmental organizations to establish fundamental principles to end all kinds of discrimination against women and girls on legislative, cultural, attitudinal and social levels on civilized human basis that considers women rights non-negotiable and indivisible human rights.

PWWSD stressed that its national campaign aims to emphasize the need to review the Palestinian law system and the need to enact legislations that are based on full equality and respect of all citizens of society, males and females, and more specifically the family protection law, Palestinian Personal Status and Penalty law.

PWWSD also states that the State of Palestine has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the optional protocol weeks ago, as well as the Child Protection Convention; thus it is necessarily required to respect the legislative and political duties and benefits associated with ratifying CEDAW and also apply temporary procedures and measures regarding women rights; in order for the cultural norms to be positively influenced and for full equality to be achieved; in the private and public sphere.

PWWSD expresses its surprise at the Chief Justice statement, at a time when Palestinian human and women's rights organizations are expecting a new Family Protection from Violence law to be released, to show the Palestinian women the serious commitment that the Palestinian political system has towards women's rights and their social and personal security. Especially at a time where we're also expecting, after quarter of century of the Palestinian government has been founded, a creation of a political will that stops and forbids the killing of women and establishes a social discourse that reinforces the democratic values and the limitation of patriarchal domination and oppression; a discourse that respects women's struggle and their rights, and inspires from enlightening social-reformer and intellectuals of previous generations, such as Mohamad Abdu, Al Taher Haddad and the many others, who called for women's rights, more than a decade and a half ago.

Lastly, PWWSD is surprised by the silence of Parliamentary blocs on the public statement of Al-Habbash, and their lack of accountability against it; which could result in adapting with an oppressive mentality and a disregard of CEDAW, the Declaration of Independence, and the Basic law. At the end of this statement, PWWSD calls to stop the procrastination of the enactment of a fair and justice legislations for women and girls.