

For Immediate Release

Ramallah

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Through an EU-funded project, DWRC held two training courses on fundamental rights and freedoms, and gender equality for male and female unionists

Ramallah: The Democracy and Workers' Rights Center (DWRC) concluded two training courses on December 17th in Ramallah, attended by 29 unionists, including 15 women. One of the courses addressed fundamental rights and freedoms, and enabled participants to acquire knowledge about human rights conventions, monitoring, documenting and reporting violations of rights. The second course focused on gender equality in the world of work, introducing participants to the concept of gender and the situation of women and men in the world of work, international conventions and dispositions of national legislation related to gender equality, as well as tools for mainstreaming gender equality in trade unions.

The targeted groups were actively involved in the training process. Four newly formed trainers from three trade unions, Al-Ummah College Employees' Union, Al-Aroub College Employees' Union and the Postal Services Workers' Union, provided training sessions during the courses after completing a 10 day training of trainers' course earlier in the year.

Several trade unions attended the 2 training courses, including: Southern Electricity Company Employees Union, Palestinian Red Crescent Employees' Union, Palestinian Postal Service Workers' Union, Kindergarten Workers' Union, NGO Workers' Union, Palestinian Nursing Association, PGFTU, the Federation of Governmental Universities and Colleges Employees, Al-Aroub College Employees' Union, Khadouri University Employees' Union, Al-Aqsa University Employees' Federation, Health Service Employees' Union, Palestinian Electrician's Unions, Communication Workers' Union, and Employees' unions in Qalqilia, Yatta & Al-Thahereya municipalities

Inas, a representative of the Health Service Employees' Union, who participated in the first training course on "fundamental rights and freedoms", said: "This is my first participation in such training courses. The course was very useful, because it addressed the law, which gave us an idea on how to act in case we were exposed to a certain situation". She added: "the training methods were very good, and the information given is still very present in my mind".

Mousa Hadar, representing Yatta Municipality Employees' Union, participated in the gender equality training course. He mentioned that: "the subjects addressed by the course are sensitive, vital & good, and participants showed awareness of gender issues. The trainers are very good and knowledgeable about the topics they are addressing".

These training courses form part of a series of trainings for improving the knowledge and skills of union and CBO members in promoting and protecting fundamental rights and freedoms of workers, through the project "Enhancing Rights and Freedoms of Palestinian Workers" funded by the European Union and implemented by DWRC in partnership with the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSO), and COSPE. This project aims to contribute to ensure protection of human rights, freedom of association and assembly in Palestine; and specifically strengthening the capacity of trade unions and CBOs to defend fundamental rights and freedoms of female and male workers, and ensure abidance with international human rights law and international labour standards.

Thus far, 47 unionists and CBO representatives have participated in three training of trainers' courses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and have started applying the skills they acquired by training others through the project courses or through activities of their organizations. In addition, a 110 members of unions, or groups in the process of establishing a union, developed their knowledge and skills on networking, advocacy & lobbying, fundamental rights and freedoms, collective bargaining and social dialogue, workers' organizing, internal good governance and transparency, and gender equality through the three-day training courses implemented through the project by DWRC and PWWSO.

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