

Will there be any indication of improvement in the Palestinian Labor Market during 2023?

What about employment? During the 1ST quarter of 2023, the number of employed persons in the Palestinian Labor Market decreased by 13,000 worker according to PCBS, compared to the 4th quarter of 2022. Moreover, the number of Palestinian workers working in the Israeli Labor Market decreased as well by 5,000 workers.

Are Palestinian workers obtaining their labor rights?

Labor rights are still widely violated during the 1st quarter of 2023, although a slight improvement was noticed compared to the 1st quarter of 2022, when it comes to having work contract, contribution in pension/severance pay fund, and obtaining the right to minimum wage. When it comes to work contract, 58% of workers do not have a work contract, only 30% of workers in the private sector receive contribution in their pension fund/end of service compensation, and 37% are paid below the minimum monthly wage of (1880 NIS).

What about the situation of women workers?

Not only that women face discrimination when it comes to employment by doubling the percentage of men's unemployment rate reaching 40%, but they also face a higher level of violations of their labor rights. In 2022, 40% of women were hired without a work contract, 44% received contribution in their pension fund/end of service compensation, while 54% were deprived from a paid maternity leave, and 50% of working women did not obtain the minimum wage.

How is it for workers in Gaza? In Gaza, unemployment rate reached 46% compared to 14% in the West Bank during the 1st quarter of 2023, as a decrease of 3.1% was noted in the number of employed people compared to the 4th quarter of 2022. Moreover, 88% of wage workers working in the private sector were paid less than the minimum wage. As the monthly minimum wage in Gaza reached (722 NIS).

DWRC organizes workers' festival on the occasion of international Worker's Day & the international day for OSH



Under the slogan “A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work”, the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center organized a workers' festival in Gaza with a wide participation of 400 persons representing workers, decision makers, trade unions, professional associations, members of the NCOSH, academics, NGOs & CSOs, to celebrate the International Workers' Day, and the International Day for Occupational Safety and Health. During the festival a play called “our story” was broadcasted, highlighting violations that workers are exposed to in the labor market, and issues faced by graduates and job seekers. A promo highlighting success stories of four companies and factories was presented, showing how they comply with OSH procedures and standards. At the end of the festival participants recommended the importance of focusing on labor issues and highlighting violations in the labor market, and demanded employers to comply with labor rights including OSH rights.

...Continue

In the same context, DWRC implemented an event in Ramallah on the occasion of the international day for OSH, to discuss OSH provisions according to Palestinian laws with a focus on work injuries, and the law by decree for supervisors and occupational health and safety committees. During the event, participant recommended the need to raise awareness among wider audience, include employers in awareness raising sessions, increasing awareness of first aid, especially in marginalized places where work injuries are common, and clear implementation procedures for the law by decree for supervisors and occupational health and safety committees.

20 unionists & journalists improve their knowledge and capacities in equality and non-discrimination at work



The Democracy and Workers' Rights Center implemented a training course in Ramallah focusing at equality and non-discrimination at work.

The training course was attended by 20 unionists, journalists, and newly graduates. Through the training participants had the chance to improve their knowledge about discrimination at work and how to monitor and prevent such acts. The training focused on how to involve the media in highlighting and playing a role in ending all types of inequality and discrimination at work.

DWRC meets with a delegation from ICTU to discuss the situation of labor movement in Palestine

Ramallah, 26/06/2023 – the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center in Palestine met with representatives of the Irish Trade Union Confederation (ICTU) to discuss the situation of labor movement and trade unions in Palestine. Through the discussion representatives discussed the control of political parties over trade unions, lack of independence. The meeting highlighting the situation of trade union movement in Gaza and how the political division effects it.

As part of its interventions, DWRC aims at democratizing the trade union movement, which will add real strength to their work, and how they benefit workers. The general director of DWRC, Mr. Hasan Barghouthi said: *"DWRC supports female and male workers through raising their awareness & building their capacities about their labor and fundamental rights, in addition to supporting them in establishing their democratic unions in various work sectors that serve the interests of workers"*.

During the meeting a discussion took place regarding Palestinian workers working in Israel, and the lack of real representation for these workers.



During the study days implemented by DWRC to discuss mechanisms to harmonize work with family responsibilities & care work, and the role of union representatives in defending and promoting workers' rights.