

The Democracy and Workers Rights Center conducts a policy dialogue event about the implementation of the minimum wage, highlighting the current situation and obstacles of enforcing the decision of the minimum wage number (4) of the year 2021, on women workers

Ramallah, 16/12/2022 – representatives of the National Coalition “my right”, reviewed a position paper about violations against women workers, aiming to find solutions related to the implementation of the minimum wage. This came during a policy dialogue event about the implementation of the minimum wage, which was implemented by the Democracy and Workers’ Rights Center yesterday, Thursday 15/12/2022, with the participation of 50 participants.

Mr. Azmie Abdul Rahman, the General Director of Labor Policies at the Ministry of Labor, stated: *“since April of this year, we launched campaigns to monitor the implementation of the minimum wage, and impose penalties on employers who violate the law.”* He added: *“I believe that the amendments on the Palestinian Labor Law will be ready by the first quarter of next year.”* He also indicated that a committee for each sector suffering mostly from non-application of the minimum wage including kindergarten and private schools, garment & textile, and professional services such as secretary, was formed to develop measures to deal with non-implementation of the minimum wage law. The Ministry Of Labor is also working in cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council, to assign specialized judges in the Palestinian Labor Law to protect workers from exploitation and to expedite the settlement of labor cases that accumulate in courts.

Mr. Mamoun Odeh, the General Director of Labor Inspection at the Ministry of Labor, said: *“women fear to testify that they do not receive the minimum wage, this is one of the challenges we face. In addition, they sign documents receiving amounts that exceed the minimum wage, and then return a certain amount to the employer.”* About the role of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, **Mr. Ameen Asi, the General Director of Planning and Policies** said: *“our role is to direct the Ministry of Labor to sectors that do not receive the minimum wage, and to improve policies and laws that ensure fairness to women and non-discrimination.”* He added: *“one of the factors that lead to women accepting low salaries is the burden of unpaid care work.”*

At the end of the event, participants recommended the need to unify efforts of relevant official authorities to implement the minimum wage law, and expedite the adoption of amendments to the Palestinian Labor Law. They also recommended the Ministry of Education not to provide licenses to kindergartens and private schools that do not abide with the minimum wage, increase sanctions and fines for establishments violating the implementation on minimum wage, the need to create specialized labor courts and assign specialized judges, increase labor inspection campaigns to monitor the application of law, and the need to reduce or cancel tax fees for kindergartens and day cares.

This event is part of the project: “Gender Equality in the Economic Sphere: Our Right, Our Priority”, which is implemented by DWRC in partnership with Italian NGOs, COSPE and EducAid, and the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), and is funded by the European Union.

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