

Wi'am continues working in the community at different levels to enhance community development and respond to people's needs through enhancing civic peace, gender empowerment, conflict transformation and building a generation of young people, women and children who are at the core of social change and transformation.

We have been running the following activities:

Mediation-Sulha:

Wi'am team of mediators is continuing their unabated mediation intervention in the community to re-establish civic peace and reconcile community conflicts. During the past three months, Wi'am mediators intervene in 90 cases of conflict in which they manage to settle/reconcile 75 cases of conflict and help re-establish friendly relationships, while the other cases are pending further interventions. Wi'am mediator's with the help of key actors in the community manage to re-establish a channel of dialogue between conflicting community groups and individuals in 10 areas in the West Bank which help to decrease tension level in the community and enhance a culture of dialogue and non-violence approach to problem solving.

Civic Education Training: Training-for-Trainers

Wi'am continues training young people from different backgrounds and areas in the West Bank in areas of conflict transformation, mediation, leadership, advocacy, human rights, gender mainstreaming, UNR1325 and non-violence.



During the past three months, Wi'am accomplished multiplication training for 40 young people from mixed gender and areas in the WB. The trainees gained knowledge and skills in conflict transformation, mediation and gender empowerment that they can utilize in peer trainings in different colleges, schools and community centers. The training also focuses on building youth spirit for voluntary work and enhances the act of community work as a basic aspect of community building.

The multiplication trainings also focus on building young people's skills and practical knowledge in areas of non-violent action as a way to attain rights and durable justice in non-violent way. Young people are not only learning non-violent skills and strategies, but they are also applying these skills in their daily life and nonviolent actions in the field (i.e. the Wall Campaign, women issues, etc.).

Young people and multipliers continue their participation in mediation efforts for the sake of mitigation of community based conflicts. This helps deepen their positive participation in the society and develop their knowledge and skills in the field of mediation and conflict management. In the process young folks form both gender discover his/her positive role in developing the local community.

The civic education training helps young people and community:

- Develop youth knowledge and skills in the field of mediation as a contribution to the transformation of internal conflict, mitigation in their local communities.
- Enhance mechanisms (i.e. adoption of new world view) of social change that can contribute to peace building amongst Palestinian youth
- Ensure equal participation in decision-making process and community change
- Support and enhance the role of youth as effective partners in the process of social change, conflict mitigation, and peace building.
- **At the Community level:**
 - Improve the community perception of the role of youth and their community participation.
 - Contribute in building a peaceful society which, deals with its conflicts in peaceful ways.

Peer-Mediation and Problem-solving for Pupils and academic circles/teachers

Wi'am embarked on a long-term training for school children and the academic circles from different schools and areas in peer-mediation and problem-solving skills and norms. The objective of the project is to build the capacities of school children and teachers in peer mediation and help establish a peer-mediation desk at different schools run by pupils/teachers themselves. By this we involve pupils and teachers in the effort to reduce school violence, enhancement of school environment and the creation of a healthy atmosphere that advocate non-violence in dealing with daily conflicts that erupts inside the school.

Youth Exchanges at the national, regional and international Levels

Wi'am has been participating in several youth exchanges around the world and the regional levels. It is of some importance to note that a young person who represents 67% among Palestinians are the leaders of moderation and expected to play an important role in reaching for civil peace and where they can affect the performance of senior leadership positively. From all of that came the idea of the dialogue of nation's project (Euro-Med exchanges) that aims to counter stereotypes, prejudices and enhance dialogue of civilizations and cultures.



Women Program:

1. Computer Training for Women



The Wi'am Center recently offered computer lessons to members of its Women's Group. Twelve women took part in the class, which consisted of 10 hours of instruction, and it was

taught by Janice Freisen, a volunteer from Austin, Texas. The women began with various levels of proficiency, and the goal of the course was to increase the skills of each woman. They learned how to use the internet to find information and how to network with others using email, Facebook, and Skype. Many of the women were excited to learn new ways to keep up with family members who have moved away from the community. On July 6, 2010, a graduation ceremony was held in the garden at Wi'am. The participants, their families, and honored guests from the community gathered to acknowledge their completion of the course. Wi'am looks forward to continuing to offer opportunities to its Women's Group to increase their knowledge and skills in technology.



2. young Women Training for Peace

Approximately twenty young women, ages 18 to 23, recently took part in a training using UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to focus on increasing participation for women in the work of peace, justice, and democracy. The long term goal of the training was to enhance young women's motivation and ability to, by peaceful means, participate in the building and development of society at all levels. The training took place in Palestine and Sweden and included different nationalities.



The three steps of the training included a basic course in UN SCR 1325 and conflict management, which was conducted in each country in the autumn of 2009. This was followed by a ten day joint training in February 2010, in which the Swedish group of young women came and met with their counterparts in Palestine and Israel. For the final step of the training, which took place in June 2010, the Palestinian group spent two weeks in Jonkoping, Sweden meeting with the Swedish group for further training sessions. Meetings with youth groups in the region (schools, university, religious centers, etc.) were included in the training.



The 6 participants learned about ways and tools to deal with prejudice, stereotypes, conflict transformation, and gender mainstreaming. Every participant had the chance to express her views freely, highlighting her cultural values and traditions, and in the process, the young women learned about other cultures and traditions present in the group. They managed to create an active group atmosphere in which the diversity of the group was harnessed, resulting in a harmonious group that respected each other not only at the personal level but also at cultural and intellectual level.

3. Weekly Women's Club: Empowerment and Civic Education

The Wi'am Women's Club has been very active with a variety of different activities on weekly basis. In addition to the computer course that was offered in June, the women have participated in training on gender mainstreaming, media, advocacy, health issues, human rights and International human rights. Women actively participated in non-violence action against the Wall.



Fifty five women enjoyed a day trip on May 1st to Nablus as part of the educational empowerment and networking in the community in which they visited the city of Nablus and met women organizations in the area.

The women groups have been attending a 15 hours training workshop on non-violence and ways of dealing with domestic violence. The training help women learn skills in dealing with cases of violence and ways of managing, resolving conflicts in a constructive manners. The non-violence skills help women to engage more actively in non-violent activities around the country and raising their voice against social ills and political injustices of the occupation.

Women also learn about different aspects of their legal and individual rights; gaining skills and practices that can empower their participation in public and political life as initiators and not as passive agents. .

World Week for Peace in Palestine

Saturday, May 29, 2010, the opening day of the 'World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel', included prayers and a program of advocacy in Bethlehem as part of a joint action for a just peace convened by the World Council of Churches.





In the morning, Wi'am welcomed two groups of interfaith peace builders. Wi'am and other civic society groups debriefed the group about the disastrous consequences of Wall and settlement building in the larger Bethlehem area. A tour of the area further explored the difficulties and challenges facing the Palestinian people. About 130 Palestinians, largely women brought together by the Church-Related Organizations, attended the program.

At 6:00 p.m. a crowd gathered in the courtyard of Wi'am in front of the Wall around Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. Zoughbi Zoughbi, director of Wi'am, in his word of welcome expressed thanks to the WCC and the countries participating in activities for a just peace in Palestine-Israel this week. The prayer service was meaningful and challenging. Among the prayers was a reading that spoke about the "dark prison of occupation," "the greed of land confiscation," and the "inhumanity of demolished houses," with the audience responding "Who will break down walls and remove obstacles?" At the end of the ceremony, Wi'am organized a tree planting ceremony in a joint initiative with Pax Christi Germany. Then black and white balloons filled the sky, symbolizing the suffering and oppression of the people of Palestine as well as their persistent hope for freedom, justice and peace.

Summer Camp for Children

On Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, approximately 70 children enjoy a variety of activities at Wi'am's summer camp. The children have learned new games, played computer games, made arts and crafts, and learned traditional dancing. The children enjoyed trips to the swimming pool in Beit Sahour and trip(s) to Ramallah Fun Park and another trip to Talita Kumi environmental centre.



The summer camp is a mix of recreational and amusement activities that engaged children in a safe environment, help them ventilate their suppressed feelings, air out their stress, build their demeanor, enhance their social responsibilities and most importantly help them learn life skills and build their motor.

Children get to learn skills and tools in peer mediation and problem-solving, environmental awareness (recycling, refuse, compost, bird's migration). The learning process in the summer camps include drama workshops, drawing, art skills, art/music therapy, stress release through sport, constructive games and playing.

Training in Non-violence& Stress Management

40 young people age 18-25 years old from different areas of the West Bank receive three-day training in non-violence skills, strategies, campaigns, advocacy, communication skills and necessary tools to devise an advocacy, stress management, and non-violent action in the community.

The training help equip young people with tools/skills to be active agents of social and political change in their communities and to be advocates of justice and non-violent

culture. They also learn skills in stress management and how to deal with stress in a way that can yield positive results, enhance the general atmosphere, and reach a happy ending.



Round-table discussion on the Current Political Affairs and the Peace Process

The informal meeting that took place on Friday, 30 of July, 2010, is run by **FRANK J. Finver Consul for Press and Cultural Affairs/Public Affairs Officer U.S. Consulate General, Jerusalem**, hosted 15 members of the civic society, youth activists, students, journalists, and political groups. The participants get to listen to the speaker's analysis of the current situation and the peace efforts in the regions. This was followed by a general discussion and questions that range from the proximity talks, peace efforts, USA brokered interventions and the local sentiment about the peace process in general. The discussion was frank and open in which the participant's called for the US brokered mediation to take the aspirations of the Palestinians in reaching a viable/independent state into consideration



Citizen Diplomacy: Making visible the Palestinian voice for justice, introducing tradition, culture and Palestinian history

Wi'am continues with its ***"Citizen Diplomacy"*** activities in which we welcomed numerous international delegations coming from all over the globe. These groups get to learn about the Palestinian culture, meet with the locals, and get introduced to the current social, economic and political situation on the ground. The delegations had the chance to see fact on the ground and enjoy the hospitality of local people. We encourage people to enjoy the warm welcome of home stays in which they get to learn about the culture, tradition and the daily life of people.



Non-Violence Activities

Wi'am volunteers and youth groups participate actively in non-violent demonstrations against the Wall and the illegal expropriation of Palestinian land in different areas of the WB (Biet Jala, Walaja and Ma'sarah). This helps young people apply their theoretical learning on the ground and expose them to the realities of the situation on the ground

By the same token, a group of young people from different areas of the WB paid a solidarity visit to a village near Bethlehem, Nahalin, in solidarity with the owners whose land is under constant threat of illegal settlements. Young people had also a debriefing form Wi'am staff about the issue of settlements and land in which they get to discuss these issues and ask questions related to the issues at hand

