



5-12-2012

**A Statement Issued by Human rights and Democracy Media Center " SHMAS"
On the occasion of {International Day for Volunteers}
"Youth are the Wealth and the Revolution"**

"SHMAS" center perceives that the culture of volunteerism faces the problem of inflexibility and imitation in the discourse that the many civil society organizations adopt, which led to the absent capacity for expansion and acquisition of new social rules due to this inner inflexibility, as well as the domination of individuality culture values over society, and the abandonment of the majority of community individuals to solve their personal problems and crisis. This inflexibility makes voluntary work incapable of interaction or conformation with the international discourse of volunteerism culture, the result is the continuity of volunteerism culture's tendency to be affected by the other's culture and subordinating to it without affecting it or being away from its negativity. In spite of the important role of women in the voluntary work but the volunteerism culture for women is still below standard, and doesn't receive sufficient attention for activating women role and enriching their expertise.

"SHMAS" center calls to arrange priorities in voluntary work and to polarize new active qualified groups in order to lead voluntary works and projects and to educate individuals through media about the significance of voluntary work and its role in developing the community. And to raise the attention of education and high education organizations regarding the programs and activities which improve both awareness and practices inside youth about voluntary work, its benefits for individuals and community and to establish an official body that undertakes the affairs of voluntary work, outlines the policy of voluntary work, drafts a new unified comprehensive system for volunteerism, clarifies volunteer's duties and rights and quests for coordinating voluntary work and prevents duplication. And to hold conferences and seminars that tackle voluntary work focusing on real obstacles inside the organizations and ways to face them, and tackle joint subjects and manners to gather volunteers.

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"SHMAS" center elevates the initiative of our colleges in Sharek Forum as well as the National Committee for Honoring Palestinian Volunteers for their huge efforts in giving success for the National Festival for Honoring Palestinian Volunteers "Onah" for the previous years, and for making the festival an annual tradition. SHMAS center also elevates the decision of the Palestinian Legislative Council for granting Dr. Haydar Abdel-shafi prize for voluntary work which is 5000 \$ annually.

"SHMAS" center asks for giving a chance for youth males and females contributions, creating new leaderships and not monopolizing voluntary work for a specific category. And honoring youth volunteers, setting a program of incentives and privileges for the, promoting voluntary work among young people regardless of its size, kind or style and developing the regulations and legislations that rule voluntary work in a way that guarantees finding real chances for youth to make decisions related to collective work. Beside constructing a special union for volunteers which direct training them, organizing them and distributing tasks between them. Schools, universities and religious institutions should have bigger role in motivating young people to volunteer. Mass media as well should practice better role in inviting people to voluntary work and identifying voluntary activities of governmental organizations and civil intuitions.

"SHMAS" center reminds that voluntary work is the most important used way to enhance youth role in social life and contributing to the advancement of community status in many fields. The significance of voluntary work increases in what it accomplishes toward youth through promoting their national belonging, upgrading youth capacities and their personal, scientific and practical skills via participating in several societal activities as well as giving them an opportunity to express their opinions and ideas in public issues and suggest solutions.

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