



## *Supporting Human Rights/Good Governance NGOs*

### **HR/GG Program Final Report Format**

#### **1. General Program Information:**

Name of NGO	<b>Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS"</b>
Project Title	<b>Reinforcing the role of female preachers in spreading the concepts of human rights - Report</b>
Name of the funding partner and name of the program	<b>NDC – Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat</b>
Reporting period	1/11/2010 – 30/09/2011
Date of the report	<b>4 November 2011</b>
Date of last report	<b>31/3/2011</b>

#### **2. Executive Summary (max. 1 page)**

This report covers the activities of the project between the period of 1\Nov\2010 until Sep. 2011. During this period, the center of SHAMS has implemented a project titled "**The reinforcement of the role of women preachers in spreading the concepts of human rights - Report**", funded by the Secretariat.

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**The project's overall objective was dissemination and promotion of the culture of human rights among female preachers, and involving them in efforts of raising awareness regarding women's rights, particularly with regard to "murder against the backdrop of the so-called family honor and incest", and to raise level of awareness of women regarding human rights issues generally.**

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**General overview:**

Despite the efforts exerted in the field of human rights protection, and despite the fact that different religions and doctrines stress the need for mercy, compassion and kindness among human beings, with special consideration of the need to protect women, the actual practice refers to the extent of the risk that women face as a result of serious violations committed against them, especially the right to one's life, which is considered the primary right of every human being, and without preserving this right, all talks about human rights is meaningless and void. This right is universal and considered as the umbrella of all other forms of rights.

Awareness campaigns and educational sessions are necessary in order to raise awareness of women about their rights and applicable laws and regulations including international conventions and instruments so as to lay the foundation for real impetus for change and work towards the utilization and exploitation of the various media outlets in this regard.

The influence of religious men and women (preachers) is essential in shaping their community's behaviour in general; the significant impact of their messages touches all aspects of life in the society. Besides this fact, it is important to work with this group as it can influence the whole community regarding issues and concepts of human rights and democracy. This project is intended to work with female preachers throughout the different governorates of the West Bank in order to achieve the stated objectives of the project.

Female preachers can play an integral role in influencing public opinion and the composition and leadership of communities to build positive trends on various controversial issues, especially so that they are honoured by the average Palestinian citizen which makes their views heard and respected, along with the trust and confidence that these women enjoy by the members of the community, by virtue of the overarching culture, or the so-called popular religiosity.

The beginning of 2010 witnessed a notable increase in crimes related to the concept of “family honor”, with a total of seven murdered women, five of them killed for what is called “family honor”. While the total of female murder cases during the whole year of 2009 reached 9 cases, taking into consideration that Palestinian society is conservative, this conceals the violence against women that is kept private and secret, and takes into consideration the women resorting to protective societies and organizations, as well as the idea that to even submit a complaint is a crime itself. As such, the real number of cases of violence against women is often likely much more than that which is usually published or reported.

In all murder cases related to “family honor”, the offender is usually a first-degree relative (i.e. father, brother or cousin). Often after committing the crime, the offender heads to the nearest police station and admits guilt, although other people may be involved in the crime. The victim's body is sometimes thrown into the street or nearby deliberately, so that people can know that the offender “who gains the image of a hero” has washed disgrace with his own hands. These crimes are still, unfortunately, welcomed and encouraged among different citizens in Palestinian society, as the practice is passed on from one generation to another.

### 3. Achievements in relation to proposed outputs and indicators:

Specific Objectives	Outputs	Indicators
Human rights education for workers in the field of religious preaching (female preachers), as they are considered a reliable source of counsel for women regarding various issues, and to utilize their influence to improve the general level of awareness regarding human rights issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Trained female preachers on issues of women's rights.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Incorporation of human rights issues in preacher's awareness program.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ability to facilitate and manage the intended awareness workshops.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Production of training manual.</b></li> </ul>
Promoting women's rights through the promotion of a culture of human rights and tolerance in the Palestinian community and to highlight the importance of involving women in advocating for battered women and for their own rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pubic awareness about human rights and women rights is raised.</li> <li>➤ Raise the issue of women's role in public life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Conducting 15 awareness-raising workshops throughout WB governorates.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>- Turnout of women in the workshops.</b></li> </ul>
Highlight the seriousness and gravity of what women are facing regarding violation of their rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Serious related issues are addressed (i.e. early marriage, women's economical and financial entitlements, right to education, work and health....).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Conducting five TV episodes in five different governorates</b></li> </ul>
Provoking a serious dialogue about honor-based murder cases in Palestinian society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Highlight the phenomenon of "honor killing".</li> <li>➤ Addressing this problem from both human rights &amp; religious perspectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Production of 3000 posters, stickers and brochures.</b></li> </ul>
Stimulate thinkers, intellectuals and media to discuss these issues and shed light on women's rights in general.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Instigate the media to carry out its role in promoting human and women's rights.</li> <li>➤ Utilize media tools to highlight on honor killings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Involvement of media tools during the implementation of the project's activities. (TV, newspapers, media reports...etc).</b></li> </ul>

#### Illustration of achievements:

##### I. Workshops:

Number of workshops conducted: 15 Workshops.

The aim of the workshops was to raise awareness among women about topics that are closely associated with women's rights as an integral part of the human rights system, and

the need to defend those rights. Additionally, the workshops also aimed at initiating a community dialogue on these topics, where monthly programs for the workshops were prepared on different subjects, that took the form of awareness and education workshops.

### **Importance of the workshops:**

- Coverage of wide geographical areas of the West Bank, especially marginalized areas.
- The dialogue that took place within the workshops is considered an indicator for the direction of Palestinian society towards the debated issues.
- Workshops are one of the main tools in the field of awareness and education in terms of impact and influence.

### **Facilitation of meetings:**

The dialogue method was adopted in all workshops, on the following basis:

1. Pose relevant questions, open discussions, brainstorming, and presentations, as well as feedback to better manage the dialogue and instigate the audience to effectively participate.
2. Adoption of the method of dialogue and collective action.
3. Providing skills and new knowledge (as a goal and philosophy).
4. Create a spirit of inquiry among the participants and enhance their ability to constantly raise questions.

## **II. The media (Television episodes/series)**

The number of TV episodes: 5 episodes

The goal of the TV episodes:

The TV episodes aimed at discussing a range of societal issues controversial in Palestinian society, in order to open a general discussion in the community around them, and to highlight some issues at the community level, as well as shaping public opinion around them. It also aimed at raising awareness among citizens on these issues.

### **The importance of TV episodes:**

*The implementation of the episodes:*

The episodes aimed at addressing a range of controversial societal issues in Palestine, in order to open a community-wide discussion around it, and in order to examine public opinion concerning them. It also aimed at raising awareness among citizens and sought to find remedies for them through public advocacy.

The importance of TV episodes resides in the fact that they cover more than one single geographical area in the West Bank, and as such maximizes the number of viewers for the workshops.

Additionally, you can reach out to a large number of viewers without the need of providing accommodations, as well as bringing about discussions at the household level, creating a significant interaction with these issues and topics, while the role of the media itself is sustained.

### **The geographical distribution of the television episodes:**

The TV episodes are broadcasted in all governorates of the West Bank through Ma'an Media Network . Each TV episode is broadcasted in one of the local television channels in each governorate of the West Bank (11 governorates), with an average of 5 episodes per month that discuss topics related to elections or democracy within the Palestinian community.

The Nature of the Television Episodes: the TV episodes are dialogue-based meetings where a number of speakers discuss a particular topic and air/broadcast it across local stations. For example, Dr. Laila Ghannam, Governor of Ramallah and Al Bireh, Dr. Sheikh Khamis Abdeh, deputy minister of the Ministry of Awqaf, Dr. Sheikh Yusuf Daibes, Chief Justice, and Mrs. Zahira Kamal, Secretary General of the FIDA party, have been all presented, in addition to a number of academics, activists and active organizations of Palestinian civil society.

### **The TV episodes addressed the following topics:**

1. The growing phenomenon of the murder of women.
2. That the emancipation of women is a necessary condition for the liberation of men.
3. The rights of women between the texts and international conventions.
4. The phenomenon of sexual harassment and incest.
5. Mechanisms to protect women in as part of the national strategy regarding Palestinian women (from the perspective of government and civil society).

### **III. Project activities in the media**

The media coverage of the project activities can be described as excellent, especially through the three local newspapers, Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam and Al Hayya, Both in terms of the size/space of the news articles (area) and the presence of photos related to the event. In addition, the project activities were covered on many websites and electronic media platforms, primarily the Ma'an media agency.

### **IV. Production of training manual on HR.**

Another important project activity was the production of the training manual on human rights tailored particularly for women's rights.

The importance of this manual resides in it being a material reference for trainees, as well as for researchers, academics, human rights activists and civil society in general.

### **V. Posters and brochures:**

In order to support the implementation of the project activities, posters and brochures were produced that highlighted the purpose and objective of the project in addition to highlighting women's rights issues.

### **The project activities are:**

#### **Conducting the training course:**

1. Meeting with the Ministry of Awqaf: The preparations for the training course began in December through making a number of calls and meetings with the Ministry of Awqaf for clarifying the idea of the project and working towards convincing them of the importance of the idea and the necessity of the participation of female preachers with how it will reflect on enhancing their performance and gaining them vital knowledge-based skills and training. The calls were divided between official communiqués, office meetings and personal visits, where 3 meetings were conducted at the ministry's headquarters, as well as an official letter to the minister in rubric of the project. Despite the greeting of the ministry at the beginning in terms of cooperation and readiness to work in order to make certain the success of the training course, there was a quick withdrawal under the excuse of the need for further study on all aspects to affirm the goal and the means that Shams sought to employ. This led to a delay in conducting the training course which should have begun in February rather than at the beginning of March.
2. Selecting a proper location for the training course: The location for the training course was selected through reviewing the costs that were offered by more than three hotels located in Ramallah. The committee, made up of the project team as well as the Center, chose the location based on the best offer in terms of pricing and services.
3. Selecting Trainers: a number of trainers were contacted after the center prepared a list that included the names of the most qualified trainers regarding the training topics. The center relied on its experience in this field, as well as consulting with a number of professionals that work in human rights organizations. The selection was made on the basis of competency, capability, and experience of the subject.

#### **The Training Course:**

The location of the training course: The Rocky Hotel, Ramallah.

The date of the training course conduction: 6-9/3/2011.

Number of training hours: Twenty (20) training hours

Number of participants: Seventeen (17) female preachers

#### **Details:**

##### **The opening:**

The training course commenced on 6\3\2011 with the presence of Sheikh Khamees Abedah, assistant secretary at the ministry of Awqaf, Mr. Bashar Al-Deek member of Shams' consultative committee, well known journalist Mr. Ahmed Zaki, Shams' project team, and Mr. Mustafa Al-Ustaz from the Tatweer Center. Sheikh Khamees reiterated the importance of conducting these courses with their presumed effects on building the capacities of the female preachers, and reinforcing their social role. Mr. Bashar Al-Deek spoke on the project, its importance and how it falls into the mandate of Shams to care more for the more religious members of society and bringing the concepts of human rights to them.

The Training Program: a training program was produced after several meetings of the project team, employees of “SHAMS” and members of the consultative committee, which included the greater interests of the participants and selected the topics and the trainers.

Day one (Sunday 6/3/2011):

Topic: Building a team.

The Trainer: Dr. **Nu'man Al-Hanbali**

Training hours: Three (3) training hours.

Focus was placed on team building skills from planning and organizing, as well as the specifications of an effective team, and the basics to build a team, as well as the stages involved. The trainer organized a group of exercises and practical applications with the participants on the subject.

Day two (Monday 7\3\2011):

Topic: Human Rights.

Trainer: **Attorney Daoud Drawi**

Number of training hours: four (4) training hours.

The subject of human rights was presented, with a discussion on the historical evolution of human rights, international legitimacy, the mechanisms of protection, cultural privacy, as well as their universality. A number of international conventions including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was distributed to the participants whom discussed a group of declarations and discussed their thoughts on them with the trainer.

Topic: A comparative reading between the Jordanian penal code number (16) of 1960 and the Palestinian penal code project (the protection of women).

Trainer: **Attorney Mo'een Al Barghouthi**

Number of training hours: three (3) training hours.

The comparison between the Jordanian penal code number (16) of the year 1960 and the Palestinian penal code project and the topic of women protection was focused on where in the beginning the Jordanian penal code was introduced and then the Palestinian penal code project, and a comparison was made between the two on the topic of protecting women, the participants studied a group of cases and compared them with the assessed punishment in the Jordanian law with Palestinian penal code project and which of them is more effective at protecting women.

Day three (Tuesday 8/3/2011):

Topic: Violence against women, murder as a model.

Trainer: **Sheikh Khamees Abedah**

Number of training hours: three (3) hours

The topic of violence against women was presented where a speech on the concept of violence and its kinds was made and the subject of the murder of women on the background of what is called family honor (honor killings), then the topic of mobilization campaigns was brought up and the importance of the media in spreading and reinforcing women's rights.

Topic: Mobilization campaigns and the importance of the media in spreading and reinforcing women's rights.

Trainer: Dr. **Walid Al Shurafa**

Number of training hours: three (3) training hours.

The importance of the media in spreading and reinforcing women's rights was discussed, as well as mobilization campaigns regarding how to prepare and plan them. The last day was focused on women's rights and enhancing them within international conventions for human rights.

Day four (Wednesday 9/3/2011):

Topic: Women's rights and their evolution within international conventions for human rights.

Trainer: **Dr. Hadeel Qazzaz**

Number of training hours: four (4) training hours.

A discussion was held about women's rights and their evolution within international conventions for human rights, and general agreements as well as those specific for women and women's rights between cultural heritage and international conventions. At the end of the day the participants graduated from the training course and an evaluation of the course was carried out.

**Notes on the training course:**

1. The training course was an extension of a series of activities and programs that SHAMS conducts for religious people, where the Center's experience was used in producing the course and reaching out to female preachers as well as the Ministry of Awqaf.
2. It was clear that the participants had preconceived notions regarding human rights, such as the idea that these concepts were against or conflict with Islam. The course played a role in clarifying some of those matters and removed incorrect ideas and false information regarding human rights as well as human rights institutes/organizations. The participants requested at the end of the course to continue performing similar and more advanced activities and courses.
3. There was a very heated debate between the participants on the subject of violence against women and the subject of striking a women and whether or not it is permitted in Islam. Several verses and quoted hadith were exchanged that prove and disprove it with the trainer, but it was apparent that the discussion on the topic corrected a lot of false information on the subject for the female preachers. The effect of the trainer on the subject (Sheikh Khamees Abedah) was wonderful for their deeper knowledge on religious matters which reflected positively on the preacher's understanding of these topics.
4. It was obvious that the participants were more open and accepting of the subject and the trainer on the final day of the course than they had been at the beginning.

**The opinions of the participants regarding the training course:**

- The participants affirmed that the course offered them an opportunity to get to know new concepts and helped them in developing their skills and experiences.
- One of the participants had suggested that Imams and male preachers should be given similar courses as it is not enough to speak to women, but there should be an effort to focus on men in order to change dominant concepts.
- The participants requested that more training courses should be conducted and they called for a training of trainer's course to be conducted to raise the level of women preachers and their capacities.
- One of the participants affirmed that a person should think and allow space for discussion and dialogue and not simply blind faith to some constants, the mind should be put to work and a person is supposed to enjoy some flexibility that doesn't conflict with basic principles.
- One participant stated that she felt that most of the trainers had a dread or fear of them (women preachers), but that when the trainers dealt with them they changed their perspectives regarding female preachers.



- One of the participants saw that the course had given her a chance to participate, discuss, and learn, and that it is her time to participate in a course.
- Another participant assured us that they have learned new concepts and that they will work to spread these concepts in their lectures.

### **The Poster:**

Work was done to select a design for the poster that was distributed during the project's activities. The design was selected from a variety of designs that were presented to the center at a meeting that included the project team and the chairman of the board of directors where all available designs were presented and the best three designs were selected, taking into account that the poster should carry a message that supports the goals of the project. Then the designs were presented to the consultative committee and members of the board of directors where the design that gained the majority vote was selected.

### **The second phase:**

#### **I. Workshops:**

Number of workshops executed: 15 Workshops.

The aim of the workshops is to raise awareness among women on social and community topics that are closely associated with women's rights as an integral part of the human rights system, and the need to defend those rights. In addition, the workshops aimed at initiating a community dialogue regarding these topics, where monthly programs were prepared for these workshops on different subjects, and took the form of awareness and education workshops.

#### **Importance of the workshops:**

- Coverage of wide geographical areas of the West Bank and especially the marginalized areas.
- The dialogue that took place in these workshops on different topics is considered an indicator for the direction of Palestinian society towards the debated issues.
- Workshops are one of the main tools in the field of awareness and education in terms of impact and influence.

#### **Facilitation of meetings:**

The dialogue method was adopted in all workshops, within the following basis:

1. Pose relevant questions, open discussion, brainstorming, and presentations and feedback to better manage the dialogue and instigate audience to effectively participate.
2. Adoption of the method of dialogue and collective action.
3. Providing skills and new knowledge (as a goal and philosophy).
4. Create a spirit of inquiry of participants and enhance their ability to constantly raise questions.

#### **Geographical Distribution of Workshops:**

No.	Location	No. of Participants	Date
1.	Ya'abad /Jenin	30	19/4/2011
2.	Kufr Ra'ei/Jenin	30	23/4/2011
3.	Hamzi Mosque –Al Balou' /Al Berih	15	12/5/2011
4.	Darul Al Quraan Alkareem/Tulkarm	47	14-5-2011
5.	Women Work Department/ Nablus	24	26/9/2011
6.	Library of Haj Nimr Al Tamimi Mosque/Nablus	40	7/6/2011

7.	Al Mugayer/ Jenin	50	13/4/2011
8.	Brothers Mosque- Al Sharif mountain/Hebron	61	12/6/2011
9.	Sheikh Ali Baka' mosque/Hebron	44	16/6/2011
10.	Ein Ereek/Ramallah	20	23/5/2011
11.	Library of Haj Nimr Al Tamimi Mosque/Nablus	39	28/9/2011
12.	Al Tharweh Mosque/Hebron	64	11/5/2011
13.	Al Zaka' mosque-Bab Al Zawyeh/Hebron	23	13/6/2011
14.	Nazlet Eissa/Tulkarm	28	15/9/2011
15.	Women Work Department/ Nablus	32	6/6/2011

## II. The media (television episodes/series)

The number of TV episodes: 5 episodes

### **The goal behind implementing the TV episodes:**

The TV episodes aimed at discussing a range of societal issues controversial in Palestinian society, in order to open a community discussion around them, and highlight some issues at the community level, and to formulate public opinion around them. It also aimed at raising awareness among citizens regarding these issues.

### **The importance of TV episodes:**

The importance of TV episodes resides in the fact that they cover more than one area in the West Bank, which maximizes the number of the viewers for these workshops.

You can also accumulate large numbers of viewers without the need to provide accommodation, bring discussion at the household level and bring ideas and raise issues by creating a significant interaction with these issues and topics, while the role of the media itself is sustained and activated.

### **The geographical distribution of the television episodes:**

The TV episodes are being broadcasted in all governorates of the West Bank, as each TV episode is broadcasted in one of the local television channels in each governorate of the West Bank (11 governorates), with an average of 5 episodes on a monthly basis that discuss topics related to elections or democracy within the Palestinian community.

Nature of the television episodes: the TV episodes are dialogue-based meetings where a number of speakers discuss a particular topic and air/broadcast it across the local stations. For example, Dr. Laila Ghannam Governor of Ramallah and Al Bireh, Dr. Sheikh Khamis Abdeh, deputy minister of the Ministry of Awqafn, Dr. Sheikh Yusuf Daibes chief of judges, and Mrs. Zahira Kamal, Secretary General of the FIDA party, have been all hosted in addition to a number of academics, activists and active organizations of Palestinian civil society.

### **The TV episodes have addressed the following topics:**

1. The growing phenomenon of the murder of women.
2. That emancipation of women is a necessary condition for the liberation of men.
3. The rights of women between the texts and international conventions
4. The phenomenon of sexual harassment and incest.
5. Mechanisms to protect women in the national strategy of Palestinian (from the perspective of government and civil society).

### III. The project activities in the media

The media coverage of the project activities can be described as excellent, especially through the three local newspapers, Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam and Al Hayya, Both in terms of the size/space of the news article (area) and the presence of photo related to the event. In addition, the project activities were covered on many websites and electronic media means, primarily the Ma'an media agency.

### IV. Production of training manual on HR.

One important activity was the production of the training manual on human rights tailored particularly for women rights.

The importance of this manual resides in being a material reference for trainees, as well as for researchers, academics, human rights activists and civil society in general.

### V. Posters and brochures:

In order to support the implementation of the project activities, posters and brochures were produced that highlighted the purpose and objective of the project in addition to highlighting women's rights issues.

## 4. Program Impact: Please list / explain impacts attained by the program, on the immediate term with explanations: (max. 1 page and attach, if applicable, evaluation results, success/feature stories)

The target of the project was an important and influential group in the society – female preachers. This group enjoys the confidence of the bulk of the society, plays an important role in the community, and subsequently plays an important role in promoting human rights issues and women's rights, including the issue of “family honor” as an action contrary to religious’ teaching and international humanitarian doctrines.

It is worth mentioning that this particular target group has its own peculiarity, and differs from other social groups in terms of way of living, way of thinking, beliefs and thoughts.

The target group is conservative and to some extent closed towards NGOs, as most of this target group still firmly believes that the real intention behind human rights issues and general funded activities is to ruin the local values and market Western depravity in the Arab World.

Working with such a group needs an intensive effort and long perseverance in order to gradually convince them to advocate for the civil society movement.

However, the project has succeeded in breaking the impasse of this community. This is due to the fact the Shams has exerted tremendous efforts with the Ministry of Awqaf and the Deans of Shariah faculties in order to obtain the needed facilitation to implement the project and acquire the commitment of the target group towards the activities of the project.

*The project achieved a tangible impact in terms of:*

- ✓ Raised awareness on human rights and women rights issues in the society from both religious and humanitarian doctrines’ perspectives.

- ✓ Highlighted some serious issues pertaining violations against women’s rights including: deprivation of heritage and other financial and economical rights and entitlements, corporal punishment, early marriage, right to work, right on education, right on health care, humiliating treatment and honor crimes.
- ✓ Made women better understand their rights and enlighten them about international human rights conventions and lead them to local and international defence organizations and instruments.
- ✓ Raised capabilities, knowledge and awareness of female preachers regarding human rights issues and the need to incorporate these issues in their religious preaching when addressing the public.

Most importantly, the various activities of the project have increased the knowledge of female preachers regarding human rights issues and instilled the need to incorporate these issues in the preachers’ sermons, messages and lectures addressing the bulk of the community.

This has maximized the impact of the project as the preachers play a non-stop role in educating the society on various issues through their regular meeting with women in villages, cities and refugee camps across West Bank governorates.

Delivering human rights and women rights issues from a religious perspective will certainly maximize benefit and acceptance of people to adapt these principles as the majority of citizens are religious and are mostly influenced by religious teachings.

The most important impact achieved is that Shams has established good links with the target group, and to some extent, gained confidence and acceptance from the target group on the basis of mutual respect and the need to preserve women rights by utilizing female preachers.

#### **5. Activities implemented by time-frame: (max. 1 page)**

No.	Activity	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2010	Jan. 2011	Feb. 2011	March 2011	April 2011	May 2011	June 2011	July 2011	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2011	Oct. 2011
1.	worksh ops												
2.	TV												
3.	Trainin g												
4.	posters												
5.	brochu res												

#### **Actual start of the project:**

##### **1. Logistical and administrative arrangements:**

**The logistical and administrative arrangements took place during November and December as follows:**

- On 4/11/2011, we received a letter from the NDC notifying us of the formal approval of the project. During this month, no activities were conducted because the center was waiting for the formal signing of the project agreement.
- After signing the agreement at the end of November, and the delivery of the agreement in December, the project kick started its activities during the month of December. This explains why the actual beginning of the project virtually took place in December. During this month, all administrative arrangements took place, including the recruitment of staff, formation of the advisory committee securing necessary equipments and resources.

## **2. Internal meetings of the advisory committee and meetings with ministry of Awqaf:**

The internal meetings of the advisory committee and meetings with ministry of Awqaf took place during the months of January and February; this included meetings with the ministry to set arrangements for the training course which started during December, and continued through January. Communication with the ministry included physical meetings, written correspondences and phone calls, where three formal meetings convened with senior staff of the ministry, which resulted in initial approval of the ministry on the nature and topics of the training course. Later, the ministry reneged its approval, delaying the implementation of the project, in addition to some other reasons, such as:

- Pretexts made by the ministry such as need to thoroughly study the project from all its aspects and to ensure its appropriateness to the target group, in addition to examining real objectives behind this project.
- Difficulties faced in communicating with the target group due to a misunderstanding of the concepts of human rights and democracy by those whom made the process of communication hectic and cumbersome.
- Reluctance of some people to participate due to stereotypes concerning the intentions of NGOs as perceived agents of Western depravity.

**These issues delayed the real implementation of the training course until March 2011.**

## **3. The Training Manual**

A training manual was developed and printed containing the topics addressed by the project. This manual serves as a reference to the institutions and people interested in this area. The preparation of the training manual was done in cooperation with the project staff, trainers and the Advisory Committee of the project in addition to the involvement of members of the Board of Directors where a series of meetings and events for the preparation and setup of the manual which contains the following topics:

- Team building.
- Human rights.

- Comparative reading between the Jordanian Penal Code No. 16 of 1960 and the draft Palestinian Penal Code (protection of women).
- Violence against women - killing of women as a model.
- Importance of awareness campaigns and role of media in disseminating and promoting women's rights.
- Women's rights and its development within international conventions on human rights.

### 3. The Poster:

A poster was developed in order to be distributed throughout the different activities of the project.

The center solicited for three designs which were presented for evaluation by project staff and the Chairman of the Board to select the best suitable design embodying the message and the objectives of the project.

### **6 Please list activities not implemented and/or modified with an explanation: (maximum ½ page)**

All envisaged activities have been implemented as originally planned.

### **7. Issues, Obstacles and Actions taken during this reporting period. (maximum ½ page)**

- Some female participants refused to register their names in the lists of attendance. Some refused to be photographed.
- Some coaches and trainers that were contacted to train the female preachers refused categorically to take this task because they find difficulties in dealing with the target group.
- Some female participants in the workshops pointed out that this kind of project negatively influences the morals of women and girls through “so called” human rights education, considering this call intends for liberation from ethical and moral attitudes.
- Some women refused the presence of volunteers of the center in the workshops especially those responsible for providing logistical support and photographing.
- Some of the female preachers refused to stay overnight at the hotel during training because this action is forbidden in Islam, so we had to bring a fatwa allowing female preachers to stay overnight in a hotel.

## 8. Did the program receive any media coverage, if so, please explain and attach photos with title and date of activity: (maximum 1 page)

### TITLE

“SHAMS” Concludes a training course on reinforcing the role of Women Preachers in spreading and supporting the culture of Human Rights.

### Date of Activity

4\3\2011

### Images

## «شمس» يختتم دورة تدريبية حول تعزيز دور الواعظات في نشر ثقافة حقوق الإنسان

الرقابة المستمرة على أداء الأجهزة والمؤسسات ذات العلاقة بحصول الإنسان على حقوقه. وتنفيذ عمليات التوثيق والملاحقة للانتهاكات التي قد تقع على الإنسان، وبما يخالف ما هو منصوص عليه في القوانين والتشريعات.

وتناول المحامي معين البرغوثي موضوع القوانين التي تتعلق في مجال حقوق الإنسان وصونها وحمايتها من خلال ما ينص عليه القانون الأردني ومشروع القانون الفلسطيني اللذين صانها حقوق الإنسان بكافة أشكالها معتبرا أن القانون هو الأساس في إنشاء درع مثن لحماية حق الإنسان من الانتهاكات التي قد تتبعها بعض الجهات.

وتحدث الشيخ خميس عابدة عن مفهوم العنف وأنواعه وأسبابه

وموضوع قتل النساء من وجهة نظر الدين الإسلامي. مؤكدا على أن القتل على خلفية الشرف، جريمة تخالف الشريعة الإسلامية، وأن الجهة الوحيدة المخولة لتطبيق النظام ومعاينة الخارجين عن القانون والشريعة هي الدولة، وبالتالي لا يجوز إصدار قرار الإعدام وتنفيذه من جانب أحد الأفراد.

وتطرق الدكتور وليد الشرفا رئيس دائرة الإعلام في جامعة بيرزيت إلى الحملات التوعوية ودورها في نشر مفهوم حقوق الإنسان والدور الأساسي لوسائل الإعلام في نشر وتعزيز حقوق المرأة مؤكدا على أن وسائل الإعلام سواء المكتوبة أو المسبوعة أو المرئية تعتبر لاعبا أساسيا في تعزيز حق المرأة. وذلك من خلال تشجيع إنتاج المسلسلات والبرامج التي تبرز الدور النضالي الوطني والاجتماعي للمرأة وتوثيقها للأجيال القادمة وتركيز على الموضوعات التي تعكس تطور المرأة، والإنجازات التي حققتها خلال المراحل الماضية.

بينما تطرقت الدكتورة هديل قزاز إلى حقوق المرأة وتطورها ضمن المواثيق الدولية لحقوق الإنسان والاتفاقيات العامة والخاصة بالمرأة وحقوقها بين الموروث الثقافي والمواثيق الدولية. من بداية الإعلان العالمي لحقوق الإنسان حتى هذه اللحظة.



مشاركون في الدورة .

رام الله - الحياة الجديدة - عقد مركز حقوق الإنسان والديمقراطية «شمس» وضمن مشروع تعزيز دور الواعظات في نشر مفاهيم حقوق الإنسان (الحق في الحياة) بتمويل من مركز تطوير المؤسسات الأهلية الفلسطينية دورة تدريبية للواعظات الشرعيات في وزارة الأوقاف والشؤون الدينية في مدينة رام الله، استمرت أربعة أيام، وتناولت الدورة موضوعات متعددة من أبرزها بناء الفريق، وحقوق الإنسان، وقراءة مقارنة بين قانون العقوبات الأردني رقم ١٦ لعام ١٩٦٠ ومشروع قانون العقوبات الفلسطيني (حماية النساء).

وافتتح الدورة كل من الشيخ خميس عابدة وكيل مساعد في وزارة الأوقاف والإعلامي احمد زكي وبشار الديك عضو الهيئة الاستشارية لمركز «شمس» وقال الديك ان الهدف

الأساسي من المشروع هو نشر وتعزيز ثقافة حقوق الإنسان

للواعظات، والعمل على إشراكهن في التوعية بحقوق المرأة وخاصة ما يتعلق بظاهرة طواهر «القتل على خلفية ما يسمى شرف العائلة وسفاح القربى» والعمل على الارتقاء بمستوى وعي النساء.

وحصرت أهداف المشروع الخاصة بتعليم حقوق الإنسان للعاملات في مجال الوعظ الديني (الواعظات) من أجل الارتقاء بمستوى وعيهن بحيث يؤثر ذلك بالإيجاب على مستوى اللغات التي يقمن بإعطائها والتزامها بحقوق الإنسان. والترويج لحقوق المرأة عبر تعزيز ثقافة حقوق الإنسان والتسامح في المجتمع الفلسطيني وإبراز أهمية إشراك المرأة في مناصرة المرأة المعنفة مسلوقة الحقوق، وتفعيل دور المرأة في بناء مجتمع سوي يحترم جميع أفرادها. وإبراز مدى جدية وخطورة ما تتعرض له المرأة من انتهاك لحقوقها، وأثره وحول قضايا القتل على خلفية ما يسمى «شرف العائلة وسفاح القربى» في المجتمع الفلسطيني.

وأكد الشيخ عابدة على أهمية التنسيق والتعاون بين المؤسسات الرسمية والأهلية، وعلى أهمية التثقيف والتوعية والإطلاع على الأدبيات الخاصة بحقوق الإنسان، مشدداً على الدور الحيوي والهام الذي تلعبه الواعظة في المجتمع المحلي، ودورها في نشر

### Newspaper clipping of the activity in the “Al-Hayat Al-Jadeeda”

The media coverage of the project activities can be described as excellent, especially through the three local newspapers, Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam and Al Hayya, Both in terms of the size/space of the news articles (area) and the presence of photos related to the event. In addition, the project activities were covered on many websites and electronic media platforms, primarily the Ma'an media agency, as well as the aforementioned TV episodes which aired 5 times per month throughout the project.

**9. Please list contributions to the Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat in the oPt web site (maximum ½ page, and attach, list of links for the reports, articles, success stories, blog entries)**

<p>The legal status of Israeli Settlements Under International Law and Environmental Violations in the Palestinian Territories</p>	<p><a href="http://shams-pal.org/pages/arabic/publications/israeliSettlements.pdf">http://shams-pal.org/pages/arabic/publications/israeliSettlements.pdf</a></p>
<p>Palestinian Women between the hammer of the internal situation and the anvil of the occupation</p>	<p><a href="http://shams-pal.org/pages/arabic/publications/palestinianWomen.pdf">http://shams-pal.org/pages/arabic/publications/palestinianWomen.pdf</a></p>
<p>Concerns of youth development and the right to participate</p>	<p><a href="http://shams-pal.org/pages/arabic/publications/concernsOfYouth.pdf">http://shams-pal.org/pages/arabic/publications/concernsOfYouth.pdf</a></p>

Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “**SHAMS**” is one of the local operating NGOs in Palestine. We have experience in dealing with different social segments and carried out different human rights promotion issues and tolerance and cultural dialogue.

Given the peculiarities of the target group in this project, the center has addressed a new target group which can be best described as a closed society and to some extent reluctant to such initiatives due to wrong perceptions and stereotypes prevailing about such projects as funded by the Western world.

Female preachers have a great amount of respect from the civil society and have influence on shaping public opinions especially among non-secular segments.

The project tried to utilize this influence in tackling some serious human rights violations especially against women and address these issues from a humanitarian and religious perspectives on the grounds that religious doctrines call for respect of every body’s rights and call for tolerance.

The HRs issues in Palestine are broadly addressed by dozens of local and international agencies, and due to the deteriorating political and security context, in addition to some social and cultural heritage, cases of human rights violations are broad due to different causes and different parties.

We recommend an integration of efforts by the different human rights activists and establish synergies among all actors to effectively and collectively protect and promote human rights at all levels.