



*American Model United Nations*  
**Economic and Social Council**

ECOSOC/II/3

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

SUBMITTED TO: The Economic and Social Council

*The Economic and Social Council,*

1        *Recognizing* the importance of primary and secondary education, and the role of scholarship programs that  
2 aid participation, in the promotion of economic prosperity and civic engagement,

3        *Aware of* the pay discrepancy between women and men in Palestine, while noting the fact that Palestinian  
4 women are educated at higher rates than men,

5        *Noting with deep concern* that the Gaza Strip suffers from a chronic electricity deficit, causing severe im-  
6 pacts on essential services such as health, water, and sanitation, and undermines the economy, particularly the  
7 manufacturing and agriculture sectors,

8        *Noting further* the extremely high unemployment rate of women in the Gaza Strip and its correlation with  
9 the 69% food insecurity rate in the region for women and their families,

10       *Taking note of* Article 55a of the United Nations Charter, which obliges Member States to promote social  
11 progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and encourages the uniting strength of Member States in the  
12 name of maintaining international peace and security,

13       *Observing* the West Bank as having the seventh highest rate of unemployment in the world, standing at 27.9  
14 percent, with even more alarming rates of unemployment in the Gaza Strip at 52 percent,

15       *Taking into account* the fact that the unemployment rate of Palestinian women is 34.8 percentage points  
16 higher than that of Palestinian men,

17       *Further observing* the efforts and successes of community-led, grassroots organizations with a focus on  
18 women's empowerment, such as Grassroots Kenya (GROOTS Kenya) in shifting the perceived role of women as  
19 being vulnerable victims and passive participants in their development,

20       *Fully aware of* the general lack of research studies aimed at gender-based issues in Palestine and the conse-  
21 quences of an emerging economic system that does not take women's issues into consideration,

22       *Affirming* the rights of Palestinian women to care for themselves and their families in safe and healthy  
23 environments, free from structural impediments that infringe on their right to freedom from domestic violence and  
24 sexual abuse,

25       *Bearing in mind* that women in the Gaza Strip, as well as other areas containing large populations of refugees,  
26 are especially vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence,

27       *Noting with approval* the Palestinian Authority's repeal of legal protections afforded in the past to perpe-  
28 trators of sexual and domestic violence who are married to their victims,

29       *Recalling* this body's resolution 2018/10 on the Situation of and Assistance to Palestinian women,

30       *Recalling further,* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the International  
31 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

32       *Expressing grave concern* about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against  
33 Palestinian women and children, and the dismantling of their properties including; homes, mosques, churches and  
34 agricultural lands,

35       *Deeply disturbed* the acts of terror committed by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for account-  
36 ability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

37 *Acknowledging* that freedom of movement is critical for increased educational opportunities, especially for  
38 marginalized groups, as well as enhanced economic opportunities through the cross-border movement of goods,

39 *Keeping in mind* that checkpoints and travel barriers pose serious health threats to pregnant Palestinian  
40 women by severely limiting their access to prenatal and other medical services, inadequate access to the latter being  
41 the third greatest cause of mortality in Palestinian women of reproductive age,

42 *Fully alarmed* at the lack of clean drinking water available in Palestine, and recalling Sustainable Development  
43 Goal 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as well as United Nations  
44 General Assembly Resolution 64/292 that recognizes the right to water,

45 1. *Suggests* that Member States renew commitments in support of the the United Nations Relief and Works  
46 Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and United Nations Women Palestine, two of the most critical organizations  
47 contributing to empowerment of women, educational and other humanitarian efforts in Palestine;

48 2. *Encourages* that Israel fulfills their responsibility as the occupying power to ensure energy access to the  
49 Palestinian people to ensure their safety, their ability to cook meals, and to ensure that water and sanitation facilities  
50 are able to process waste-water to ensure access to potable water;

51 3. *Suggests* that Israel commits to working with the women of Palestine to facilitate the exportation of  
52 products made by Palestinian women, so as to support Palestinian families' ability to secure economical benefit;

53 4. *Suggests further* the creation of Grassroots Palestine (GROOTS Palestine), a community-led, grassroots  
54 organization serving Palestinian women that emulates the work of existing organizations such as Grassroots Kenya  
55 (GROOTS Kenya) while:

56 (a) Creating grassroots women-led community-based groups (CBOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs)  
57 that focus on committing to a bottom-up and human rights based approach to development;

58 (b) Aiding women in Palestine towards becoming more self-sustaining and more informed of the  
59 value they can offer in the context of employment;

60 5. *Urges* the expansion and use of the Development Impact Bond (DIB) within the Palestinian Territory to  
61 achieve the following:

62 (a) Lower rates of unemployment of Palestinian women by;

63 (i) Catalyzing investment opportunities that shift focus from inputs to results;

64 (ii) Only allowing repayment once outcomes are achieved because the DIB is an equity-like instru-  
65 ment;

66 6. *Advises that* Member States to refer to Resolution 1/3 of the Economic and Social Council to provide  
67 funding mechanisms in hopes to:

68 (a) Create job opportunities for Palestinian women;

69 (b) Fund the creation of women led business initiatives, and;

70 (c) Increase the economic literacy of Palestinian women;

71 7. *Further invites* the intervention of the UNRWA in implementing measures such as family-protection units  
72 and monitoring systems in women's shelters for the purpose of allowing women to report domestic and sexual violence  
73 safely and discreetly, especially near Israeli checkpoints;

74 8. *Requests* that the UN bolsters gender-based violence initiatives within the International Criminal Court  
75 (ICC) in the Gaza Strip, where women are particularly vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence;

76 9. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territories is a leading contributor to the social and  
77 economic woes faced daily by the women in the Occupied Territories of Palestine;

78 10. *Further requests* that Israeli and Palestinian leaders work both together and with the international  
79 community to achieve a lasting and effective peace and ensure ample representation for those currently facing re-  
80 pression including those living in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, while adhering completely with  
81 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

82 11. *Strongly urges* Palestinian authorities to adopt further legislation that implements criminal penalties for  
83 acts of domestic and/or sexual violence against any women;

84 12. *Calls for* the down-scaling of relevant Israeli and internal checkpoints with a focus on freeing routes to  
85 health and educational facilities for communities in Gaza and other occupied territories;

86 13. *Suggests* the reduction of barriers to economic exchange across Palestinian borders in an effort to provide  
87 sustainable employment, especially to Palestinian women, who are twice as likely as men to be unemployed;

88 14. *Strongly advises* the use of resources and programs such as Sanitation and Water for All, The Global  
89 Contact, and Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSC) and collaboration with grassroots movements  
90 in the Global South such as GROOTS Kenya, to invest in clean water sources, focusing specifically on, but not limited  
91 to the Gaza strip:

92 (a) Implementing the construction of wells and water points, water sanitation areas, and transport  
93 for the water;

94 (b) Training and hiring women to operate machinery to dig the wells and/or other sources of water,  
95 and maintaining the wells and sanitation points, and training and maintaining of the transportation;

96 (c) Educating women on proper sanitation of water and where the nearest water points will be.

Passed, Yes: 21 / No: 3 / Abstain: 4