



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Women's Organizations: Palestine

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ In 1965, the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW) was founded by the Palestine Liberation Organization as an umbrella organization for Palestinian's women's groups. It has worked to elect women in the Palestinian Authority, to write gender into Palestinian law, and to implement humanitarian projects.^{1,2}
- ❖ Established in 1980, the Union of Palestinian Women Committees Society's primary goal is to empower Palestinian women on all levels and to contribute in the Palestinian national struggle against the Israeli military illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories.³
- ❖ The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD) is one of the biggest women's Non-Government Organization's (NGO) working in occupied Palestine. Since its 1981 founding, PWWSD has created a women's empowerment program, a psycho-social counseling, and a capacity building program.⁴
- ❖ The Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) was founded in 1991 to function as an umbrella organization to unite various women's groups and coordinating their social and political activism.⁵
- ❖ Founded in Nablus in 2002, the Palestinian Women's Club is the first and only club of its kind in the city. It offers activities ranging from youth programs to yoga, along with music and embroidery classes. The club also provides classes in skilled trades such as hair and beauty, computers, and languages including French, English, Hebrew and Spanish.⁶
- ❖ Karama, a non-governmental organization was established in 2002 in Deheishe Refugee Camp, Bethlehem in the West Bank. Karama has established a community center that offers skills workshops, English classes, and a micro-farm project for women.⁷
- ❖ The state of Palestine's Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), was established in 2003. MoWA works on the local and global scale as it works to change the stereotypical image that [Palestinian] society has of women, by allowing them to transcend their role as mere housewives, help them attain decision-making positions and assist them with the many challenges they face in society — such as [honor killings](#), [domestic violence](#) and [denial of inheritance rights](#) — as well as empower them economically, socially and psychologically.^{8,9}

¹ <http://gupw.net/>

² <http://www.britannica.com/topic/General-Union-of-Palestinian-Women>

³ <http://www.upwc.org.ps/>

⁴ <http://www.pwwsd.org/en/about-us1/>

⁵ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201110/20111027ATT30536/20111027ATT30536EN.pdf>

⁶ http://www.nablusguide.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94%3Awomens-club&catid=37%3Asociety&Itemid=64&lang=en

⁷ <http://www.karama.org/>

⁸ <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/02/palestinian-women-affairs-minister-empower.html#>

⁹ <http://www.mowa.pna.ps/en/etemplate.aspx?id=100>