

**Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Regional Office Palestine (RLS)  
Partners and Projects in Palestine and Jordan  
2017**

**(August 2017)**

**Palestine**

**AFKAR Institute for Educational & Cultural Development (AFKAR)**

AFKAR for Educational & Cultural Development is a non-governmental organization founded to provide capacity building and empowerment to students, helping them meet ever-increasing challenges and needs in education and culture in Palestinian society.

***Project: "Palestinian Debate Championship for Schools (PNDC)"***

AFKAR promotes alternative educational methods in Palestinian schools across the West Bank, particularly in conservative public schools. Working in cooperation with a select number of schools, mixed gender groups of teachers and students are trained in debating, communication and critical thinking skills. Each term closes with a series of debating competitions. In 2017 AFKAR will focus on seventeen supervisors and coordinators of the 17 winning schools across the West Bank, to develop and strengthen their capacities, and will also work with the students and execute schools' competitions for the different regions.

For more information, please visit the organization's website and/or Facebook page:

<http://www.afkar.ps/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Afkarps-205978262755061/>

**ASHTAR for Theatre Productions and Training (ASHTAR)**

The ASHTAR Theatre was established in Jerusalem in 1991 as a non-profit organization providing drama training for students. Since then ASHTAR has steadily expanded the scope of its activities and specializes in working with forum theatre. ASHTAR today is based in Ramallah and is among the best established cultural organizations in Palestine.

***Project: "Touring Workers' Rights!"***

Using the didactic approach of forum theatre developed in Brazil-a part of the Theatre of the Oppressed Movement, ASHTAR works to move the public beyond classic distinction of actors and audience, transforming plays from forms of entertainment to tools for social change. In 2017 Ashtar will tour the play on the topic of workers issues and rights that has been produced in 2016 across the West Bank. Another production on issues of health will take place, and will be performed, in Gaza.

For more information, please visit the organization's website and/or Facebook page:

[www.ashtar-theatre.org](http://www.ashtar-theatre.org).

[www.facebook.com/ashtar theatre](https://www.facebook.com/ashtartheatre)

**Association of Women's Action for Training and Rehabilitation (AOWA)**

The Association of Women's Action for Training and Rehabilitation (AOWA) is a developmental organization established in 1994 by a group of women from the Women Action Federation. AOWA works toward elevating the role of Palestinian women in society through training and skill development and in doing so changes traditional perceptions of women's roles.

***Project: "Carpentry House- Phase four"***

In 2013 AOWA opened a women's cooperative in the Old City of Hebron where women run all production processes, designing, creating and selling educational wooden toys, in addition to having an intensive awareness and educational program. In 2017 the cooperative is going to focus on media and distribution of products, aiming at drawing the attention to this unique and nonstereotyped model.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.aowa.ps/en>

**Birzeit University – Center for Development Studies (CDS)**

The Center for Development Studies (CDS) at Birzeit University is a leading authority on Palestinian development. Established in 1997, the CDS aims to deepen engagement with the concept of development by applying current theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

***Project: " Alternatives to neo-liberal development; Political divisions, Social Fragmentations, and economic inequalities ( the case of Gaza)"***

In 2016 CDS continue researching socio-urban changes in Birzeit and Anata areas as part of their research in in socio-urban changes in Palestine. In 2017, CDS will work on mapping of economic, political, social and spatial changes that took place in Gaza in the past ten years (2007-2017), and to trace changes in power structures and relations

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

[home.birzeit.edu/cds](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds)

**The Civil Associations Union for Development (CAUD)**

CAUD is an umbrella organization composed of Palestinian unions, grassroots organizations, women's rights groups and NGO's working on development issues. CAUD coordinates their collective efforts toward initiating and advocating for progressive leftist programs in the sector.

***Project: "Capacity Development Program on Emancipatory education for University Students"***

In 2014 CAUD ran a large advocacy campaign to promote awareness of gender roles and the principles of equality within Palestinian elementary school curriculums. In 2015 CAUD worked with grassroots organizations to campaign for the implementation of strategies to improve performance within Palestinian schools. In 2016 the trainees has trained additional CBO's affiliated with CAUD to sustain advocacy on issues of concern together with school teachers. In 2017 CAUD will focus on a selected group of University students, from humanitarian departments, to spread the methods of emancipatory education and equip the new school teachers' generation with modern teaching tools and methodologies.

**Community Action Center – Al-Quds University (CAC-AQU)**

The Community Action Center is a Palestinian non-profit community rights-based organization established in 1999. CAC is linked to Al Quds University and aims to empower disenfranchised residents of East Jerusalem to access their rights, working with them to negotiate the complex bureaucratic procedures that control the flow of these rights. The center also seeks to engage marginalized groups to empower them to fully participate in their community's development.

***Project: " Campus Community Compact – Narrowing the gaps for tomorrow "***

In 2017 CAC will work to empower local communities to advocate for their right to self-development, enhance dialogue and collaboration within local communities through creative methods including storytelling and animation production. CAC will also continue empowering university students to become agents of change within the communities surrounding Al Quds University.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.cac.alquds.edu/en>

**The Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA)**

CFTA is a non-profit organization established in 1997 in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. CFTA works to promote a progressive Palestinian cultural identity by advocating for human rights and the values of social equity and equality. CFTA has a special focus on youth in the Gaza Strip.

***Project: "Youth Engagement"***

The southern Gaza Strip is the most deprived, most conservative and least developed of all Palestinian regions and as a result youth have limited opportunities to develop their capacities. In 2015 CFTA began a programme of interactive skills development; providing resources and training in film making and photography. In 2016 CFTA continued updating youth skills in these areas and will run debate sessions on the future of Gaza, freedom of expression and youth rights. In 2017 CFTA will continue on working with youth, in Gaza, and develop their dialogue and freedom of expression skills, through debate sessions that focus on female participation in public spheres

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

[www.cfta-ps.org](http://www.cfta-ps.org)

**Fuad Nassar Institute for Research and Publishing (FNI)**

FNI is a progressive think tank engaged in research on the application and consequences of the donor-driven aid industry in Palestine.

***Project: "The minimum wages law from the leftist point of view"***

In 2016 FNI built on its advocacy campaign to ensure the implementation of minimum wage law in Palestine, to increase the minimum wage and to implement equal wages for equal work. In 2017, FNI will produce alternative proposal for the minimum wages law and its implementation mechanisms.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

[www.yasariyyat.ps](http://www.yasariyyat.ps)

**Al Hoash - “The Palestinian Art Court”**

Al Hoash- “The Palestinian Art Court” implements urban interventions in Jerusalem to contribute raising awareness to the city and questioning existing power structures through the interaction in public space and the integration social engaged art into already existing community work structures.

**Project: Alternative Learning in Jerusalem**

In 2015 and 2016 Al Hoash worked on urban space and educational programs in the field of alternative tour and educational concepts in Jerusalem. In 2017, Al Hoash is working to explore the role of art in Jerusalem, engage with critical questions, and try to develop communal and collective answers and approaches.

For more information, please visit the organization’s website:

[www.alhoashgallery.org](http://www.alhoashgallery.org)

**The Palestinian Forum for Israeli Studies (MADAR)**

MADAR is a nonprofit civil society organization founded in 2000, starting out as an initiative of Palestinian intellectuals and academics. MADAR seeks to enhance local and regional understanding of Israeli political, cultural, military, and socioeconomic issues. MADAR works to educate Palestinians on these issues by publishing books, research papers and translations of texts from Hebrew and other languages into Arabic.

**Project: “Knowing the Israeli Scene and Understanding its Complexity”**

In 2016 MADAR has published four volumes of the magazine “*Israeli Issues*” focusing on modern Zionism, the question of the diaspora, Israel’s relations with the states of former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries. In 2017 Madar will publish another four volumes of the magazine focusing on Belfour’s declaration and on 50 years on the Israeli occupation of 1967’s Palestinian territories. Madar will also launch its website and will produce 6 short video clips with info- graphics on selected issues from the magazine.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

[www.madarcenter.org](http://www.madarcenter.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/Madar-the-Palestinian-Forum-for-Israeli-Studies->

**Press House Palestine**

Press House-Palestine is an independent, non-profit institution concerned with media issues and freedom of expression. Press House was founded in Gaza in January 2013 through an initiative of a group of journalists concerned with both the status of Palestinian journalism and the promotion of democracy. Press House aims to contribute enhanced freedom of expression and to improving the quality of Palestinian media.

**Project: “Promoting Objective Media 2”**

In 2016 Press House contributed to promoting media objectivity in the Gaza Strip by building the capacities of men and women media graduates. 30 fresh graduates have been trained on utilising the media to serve the Palestinian cause coherently and objectively. The participants were also trained on the use of media in lobbying and advocacy. In 2017 Press House duplicate the work with another group of young media actors in Gaza, to further strengthen the approach of objective media.

[www.palbas.org](http://www.palbas.org)

**Social and Economic Policies Monitor (Al-Marsad)**

In 2011 a group of activists in the field of economic and social rights came up with the idea of establishing a monitoring mechanism, “Al-Marsad” to observe and examine economic and social policies adopted locally and regionally and to investigate their direct impact on the poor in particular and society in general.

***Project: “Alternative approaches for Social Inclusion in the Occupied Palestinian Territories”***

In 2016 Al-Marsad led campaign to change the social security law, and managed to change the law through this campaign. In 2017, Marsad will research the UNRWA health system in refugee camps and develop progressive and critical civil and community coalition to address social inclusion.

For more information, please visit the organization's website and/or Facebook page:

[www.almarsad.ps](http://www.almarsad.ps)

<http://www.facebook.com/al.marsad.1>

**Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)**

UAWC was founded in 1986 by a group of volunteers and agronomists. Its mission is to empower small farmers, both men and women and to strengthen their abilities to develop their lands by generating an agricultural and developmental framework at the public level.

***Project: “Socialist Cultural Café : Promotion of socialist economic alternative”***

In 2016 the UWAC continued working on the Palestinian right to food sovereignty by establishing a progressive youth cooperative of mixed genders producing medical herbs. In 2017 UWAC will establish a youth club in Birzeit town, and will provide an engaging educational program, along with fostering the spirit of voluntary work, amongst youth.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

[www.uawc-pal.org](http://www.uawc-pal.org)

## Jordan

### **Arab Education Forum (AEF)**

AEF is a civil initiative begun in 1998 by educational activists. AEF is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization active in the Arab World in the field of community and youth work. The mission of AEF is to contribute to an Arab cultural regeneration starting with the premise that people are builders of understanding, knowledge, cultural expressions, and social groups.

#### ***Project: "Storytelling Training and Apprenticeship (Mujawara) for Social Transformation. Phase III"***

In 2015 AND 2016 the AEF began a residency project for Arab story tellers to provide an in-depth learning opportunity for participants while producing joint performances to discuss educational issues. In 2017 AEF will further develop their residency programme for story tellers to include research in oral history and the production of an EBook to include progressively reshaped traditional stories.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.almoultaqa.com>

### **Al-Balad Theater**

The Al-Balad Theater is a civil society organization established in 2005 to strengthen the cultural movement in Jordan through interaction and cooperation with all performing art groups, NGOs, and individuals, both public and private.

#### ***Project: " Baladak Street Art Festival"***

In 2015 and 2016 Al-Balad Theater worked to provide public platforms for people to engage with alternative forms of resistance to social, political & traditional challenges. In 2017 Al Balad Theatre will continue to provide such a platform and will develop a graffiti network bringing together graffiti artists from different countries.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.al-balad.org/>

### **Identity Center**

Identity Center was founded in 2009 as an independent civil society organization working to encourage development across the Middle East. Identity Center works to empower people to participate in political, economic, and social development and ultimately to shape and control their identities and destinies.

#### ***Project: "Economic Inequality and Social Justice in Jordan"***

In 2015 and 2016, Identity center started a social justice academy to increase awareness of the concept of social justice across Jordan by establishing youth groups in six of Jordan's governorates. In 2017, Identity will identify and raise awareness about under-explored issues related to economic inequality in Jordan.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.identity-center.org/>

**Office Project: “Amplifying Community Voice: Palestinians’ Experience With Aid”**

In 2016, in cooperation with Aid Watch Palestine, Twelve workshops on the topics of community awareness and engagement have been conducted to deepen understanding on the question of aid policies and mechanisms in the Palestinian context. Aid Watch has also screened films and conducted exhibitions in the West Bank and in Gaza, to further highlight and encourage the discussion on the subject. In 2017 Aid Watch will network with key influencers to understand their current analysis of aid, offer research-based analysis, and tools through participation in public events and quiet lobbying to influence the way they frame issues of aid as part of Palestinian rights discourse, and develop strategic relationships to mainstream a critical and constructive analysis of aid into various current discourses.

For more information, please visit the organization's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AidWatchPalestine?fref=ts>

**Office Project: Research on “The Status of Women in Palestinian Leftist Political Parties”**

The Society of Palestinian Women's Committees established in 1980, is a grassroots organization that strives to contribute to the building of a progressive community which is free of all forms of discrimination and respects women's rights as part of human rights in general. The society seeks to defend national and social right of all women towards full equality in all aspects of life and to empower women to enable them confront all the challenges they encounter. In 2017, the society started cooperating with RLS and is preparing a research to identify the status of Palestinian women within the main Palestinian leftist political parties, and to identify the factors that led to less women participation in decision making positions in these parties.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.upwc.org.ps/>

**Office Project: Research on “Emancipatory Education in Jordanian Universities”**

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS), is an independent, regional advocacy center for studies and training on issues of human rights and democracy. ACHRS is a member of several NGO networks, including the Arab Network of NGO's, the Mediterranean Human Rights Network and the International Federation of Human Rights, and holds special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. In 2017, ACHRS started cooperating with RLS and is preparing a research on Emancipatory Education in Jordanian Universities, to highlight the status of emancipatory education and academic freedom in Jordanian universities.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.achrs.org/>

**Office Project: Baseline study on “Migrant domestic workers status in Jordan”**

Domestic workers, as part of the migrant workers that comes to Jordan with hopes for better life, might face several challenges and obstacles on the different social, socio-economic, legal and political levels.

Domestic workers in Jordan can be found as legal and illegal workers, who could be excluded from labor and social protection system in Jordan. In 2017, RLS is conducting a baseline study to gather quantitative and qualitative data related to the status quo of the migrant domestic workers in Jordan, spot the formal and informal organizing procedures, and identify norms, laws and policies affined to the topic.