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Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE

2018/17

Ramallah, 5 December 2018

Gender Policy Institute launches analysis on gender equality and women's empowerment policies in Palestine



Ramallah, 5 December 2018 – Within the joint campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence - Hear Me Too: Voices Against Violence, UNESCO's Gender Policy Institute (GPI) launched the findings of a qualitative analysis study entitled: *"Bridging Gender Gaps in Palestine: Qualitative Analysis of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policies"*. The study was conducted over a one-year period with the objective to support gender equality and women's rights in Palestine through reshaping the discourse on public policies and their implementation or non-implementation and impact on Palestinian women.

In her opening remarks H.E. the Minister of Women's Affairs Dr. Haifa Al-Agha mentioned that while achievements towards gender equality have been made, Palestine is facing a variety of impediments that hinder the full realization of women's rights. She further reaffirmed the *importance of working on policy development in parallel to awareness-raising for the community, specifically the impact on development, and strengthening laws that contribute to the promotion of equality and women's empowerment.*



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Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, UNESCO Representative to Palestine, emphasized that this analysis will *represent a stepping-stone for discussion and debate on gender equality and the empowerment of women in Palestine*. He further stressed that *more efforts and work are needed when it comes to the effective implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment policies in Palestine, including policy research and the provision of recommendations to all stakeholders from government and civil society*.

Ms. Nina Hal Schjelderup, Head of Development of the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority highlighted that gender equality and the inclusion of women in all layers of society *is not only a human rights issue, but are essential requirements for sustainable growth and development*. She further stated that *a sustainable future for Palestine means a growing economy and inclusive state institutions, which can only be successful through the empowerment of women*.

During the event, a presentation was given on the mission and vision of GPI and on the findings on the analysis of the mapping of gender equality and women's empowerment policies. This was followed by a discussion on the findings of the analysis including stakeholders working in the field of gender equality in Palestine.

GPI is a UNESCO programme, funded by the Government of Norway, with the mission to advance the status of women in Palestine through policy research, analyses and public advocacy. The GPI envisions to influence policies and build accountability for gender equality through effective research and analysis, through providing policy advice, undertaking policy reviews and serving as a policy broker between stakeholders.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit www.unesco.org/ramallah and visit us on : [Unesco Ramallah Office](#)

For more information on the #HearMeToo: Voices against Violence campaign, please visit : [16 Days of Activism - Palestine](#) and follow the hashtags #OrangetheWorld and #HearMeToo on social media.

For more information on this event, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Public Information Officer of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at m.beltaji@unesco.org