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## Ramallah Office

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE**  
2019/14  
**Ramallah, 14 October 2019**

### **UNESCO and the Government of Norway officially handed-over the Gender Policy Institute (GPI) to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA)**



**Ramallah, 14 October 2019** – UNESCO Officer-in-Charge, Head of Office, Mr. Junaid Sorosh-Wali, and the Representative of Norway to Palestine Ms. Hilde Haraldstad officially handed over the Gender Policy Institute (GPI) to Her Excellency the Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Amal Hamad. The ceremony was attended by the members of GPI's Advisory Board.

UNESCO has been leading the establishment of this first Gender Policy Institute (GPI) in Palestine and the region, which takes forward and builds on the Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center (PWRDC), a UNESCO programme, funded by the Government of Norway. The GPI has been developed into a gender-related policy think tank after a broad consultation among key stakeholders and relevant academic, governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the field of gender equality. UNESCO in close collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) has actively worked on the establishment of GPI and its legal status to become an autonomous national Palestinian Institute.

Finally, the Cabinet of Ministers granted GPI with the necessary legal status to become the first Gender Policy focused Institute. Subsequently, UNESCO, in cooperation with MoWA, is currently taking the lead towards the transition of GPI into an independent and autonomous



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entity that conducts quantitative and qualitative analysis of public policies from a gendered perspective.

Her Excellency the Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Amal Hamad thanked UNESCO for the tremendous support and confirmed that the Ministry *will build on what has been accomplished over the last decade with UNESCO* and expressed her willingness to *continue this cooperation*. She also thanked *the Government of Norway for its generous financial contribution to GPI and all its previous phases*.

Mr. Junaid Sorosh-Wali, UNESCO's Officer-in-Charge, Head of Office, expressed *UNESCO's pride for leading the establishment of the first Gender Policy Institute in Palestine and the Arab region and affirmed UNESCO's commitment to continue to support GPI until it becomes a well-established Gender Policy focused Institute*. He further expressed his *gratitude to H.E. Dr. Hamad and to the Government of Palestine for approving the legal identity of GPI as well as to the Government of Norway for their generous support*.

Ms. Hilde Haraldstad expressed *Norway's pride to be part of the establishment of GPI despite the challenges faced and confirmed Norway's commitment to continue supporting the future phase of GPI*.

The GPI will research, analyze and share evidence-based policy products with target audiences, and help shape the policy debate by engaging and collaborating with policy makers, practitioners and academics. The focus will be on building accountability for gender equality through effective policymaking and its implementation in partnership with the Palestinian institutions and in particular MoWA, by connecting CSOs, academic and governing authorities in a cohesive and collaborative manner.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit [en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/ramallah](http://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/ramallah) and visit us on : [UNESCO National Office Ramallah Office](https://www.facebook.com/UNESCO.National.Office.Ramallah)