

## **Combating Violence against Women through the Empowerment of Community-Based Organizations**

Supported by the Austrian Representative Office

MIFTAH, through different projects under its program “*Democracy & Good Governance*” seeks to empower Palestinian women leaders. This falls in line with MIFTAH’s vision of *an independent, democratic and sovereign Palestinian state, which grants Palestinians their basic rights, preserves their dignity, and enjoys international recognition and respect.*

This project “*Combating Violence Against Women through the Empowerment of Community-Based Organizations*”, supported by the Austrian Representative Office, corresponds with these projects, especially MIFTAH’s “*Gender, Peace and Security*” project, funded by UNFPA. It was through this project that MIFTAH founded the coalitions of Nablus and Hebron in 2007-2008 aimed at promoting UN Resolution 1325, whereby the goal was to link the resolution with reproductive health and empower women with the information and abilities needed to resist and fight all types of gender-based violence.

This project aims to reduce the incidents of gender-based violence and enable local community organizations in both (Nablus and Hebron) to form and formulate principles of gender equity and equality; it also looks to support Palestinian women’s issues related to gender and discrimination and advocate the increase of women’s participation in decision-making.

In order to achieve this, the project targets a wide sector of the local community that is directly or indirectly linked with the organizations in the 1325 coalition, starting with administrative and executive boards and ending with local community official and unofficial organizations.

The expected achievements of the project within its defined timeframe (2009 – 2011) include a number of important and significant publications such as an assessment study of the status of Palestinian women in Nablus and Hebron, a training manual on UN Resolution 1325 and ways to link it to women's issues in Palestinian society. In addition, it aims to provide the target group with the information and experiences needed to achieve the goals of the project by holding training workshops, awareness sessions and media campaigns.