



The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH

ABOUT MIFTAH

MIFTAH was established in 1998 as an independent Palestinian civil society institution committed to fostering the principles of democracy and effective dialogue. **MIFTAH's** main work during its beginning was on political concerns especially opening dialogue on final status issues, disseminating the Palestinian narrative on regional and international levels in addition to working on the local and national levels to support building the Palestinian state.

Ever since its establishment and especially after the fall of the Camp David peace negotiations in 2000, **MIFTAH** was dedicated to Palestinian nation-building and empowerment on the basis of the principles of democracy, human rights, rule of law, and participatory governance. **MIFTAH** was one of the first Palestinian NGOs to realize the importance of institution building and democracy to ensure state building, in parallel with the political process, after the failure in the peace talks and the invasion of the West Bank that followed. In support of good governance and democracy, **MIFTAH** used to and continues to influence public policy formulation for safeguarding citizens' rights and enhance justice and rule of law with a special focus on marginalized segments of Palestinian society especially women and youth.

MIFTAH's political impartiality has turned it into a well-reputed and well-respected organization, hence, it provides a safe place for male and female political activists, leaders, members of local councils, Palestinian Legislative Council, Palestinian Political Factions, and Community-Based Organizations and public institutions to exchange information and engage in constructive dialogue to enhance multichannel communication among all sectors of society, with the view of supporting policy formulation, addressing policy recommendations and policy proposals.

VISION

A sovereign, independent, democratic, tolerant and inclusive Palestinian state, which grants Palestinians their basic rights, preserves their dignity, and enjoys international recognition and respect.

MISSION

Established in 1998, **MIFTAH** seeks to promote the principles of democracy and good governance within various components of Palestinian society; it further seeks to engage local and international public opinion and official circles on the Palestinian cause. To that end, **MIFTAH** adopts the mechanisms of an active and in-depth dialogue, the free flow of information and ideas, as well as local and international networking.



CORE VALUES

- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Credibility
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Neutrality
- ✓ Independence
- ✓ Professionalism and work ethics
- ✓ Participation and inclusiveness
- ✓ Non discrimination
- ✓ Equality and Gender responsiveness

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. To Enhance Good Governance in Palestine

- ❖ **Specific Objective 1:** To enhance women and youth participation in policy and decision-making within the public sector and local government organizations;
- ❖ **Specific Objective 2:** To advance policy advocacy and lobbying to ensure social justice and equality.

2. To Strengthen National Unity and International Awareness of the Palestinian Narrative

- ❖ **Specific Objective 1:** To enhance internal dialogue to reach consensus on key political positions imperative to the Palestinians,
- ❖ **Specific Objective 2:** To promote the Palestinian narrative as a just and fair cause.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

MIFTAH operates in areas covering the whole of the West Bank and Gaza Strip through its main office located in Ramallah, in close coordination with active field coordinators assigned in eight districts within the West Bank and Gaza Strip. More precisely, MIFTAH expands its activities to cover the most marginalized areas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including east Jerusalem) and Area C.



AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Women Political Participation

MIFTAH places a great focus on women empowerment especially in regards to political participation and enhancing women representation in decision making positions and within the political system at the national and local government levels through; supporting women potential candidates to run for local and national elections, raising citizens' awareness on women political participation and active citizenship, empowering women leadership role within local government organizations, carrying out analytical research on gaps identified within the election laws and legislation that hinder women participation and representation in elections, and providing policy recommendations and proposals for laws amendments and adjustment to enhance women political participation.

Youth Empowerment

MIFTAH's work on political participation includes youth, placing a great support for their representation in decision making positions and within their political factions. **MIFTAH** focuses on supporting youth political leadership in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be well prepared to take on political roles and to become involved in political and public spheres through; developing a Youth Agenda, enhancing youth participation in public debates, round table discussion and policy meetings and supporting youth groups to submit policy recommendations to influence policy formulations and bylaws within PLO entities, and political factions.

Women Peace and Security

MIFTAH works on women protection and participation, in line with UNSCR 1325 and the general comments 30 and 32 of CEDAW and other relevant UN resolutions and human rights conventions. **MIFTAH** played a leading role in the realization of Women Peace and Security Agenda in Palestine through; the formation of local coalition for the implementation of UNSCR1325 and then the formation of the National Coalition and defining its vision and strategic and advocacy plan, supporting the formulation of the Agenda and building consensus on the Palestinian women demands based on adoption of CEDAW conventions, providing an inclusive dialogue sphere that supports women to hold decision makers accountable for the violations committed against women and building networks and alliances at the



regional and international levels to present women demands for protection at the international level.

Women Protection from GBV

MIFTAH works on promoting gender equality and equity including protection against gender-based violence within a policy framework through; addressing recommendations at both policy and legislative level, fostering dialogue on addressing sexual violence related to absence of national protection policies and services for survivors of sexual violence and crimes, mobilizing religious and community leaders for promoting protection of sexual and reproductive health rights including protection from gender based violence, and enhancing the role of media in public campaigning on gender based violence and sexual violence.

Women Economic Empowerment

Another area that **MIFTAH** focuses on in relation to women empowerment is enhancing their economic participation through; empowering women leadership role in managing income generating projects and increasing the income of women in vulnerable communities, contributing to the national efforts in fighting poverty and unemployment among women and their families in marginalized areas and opening dialogue with policy makers and legislators on enhancing the legal framework that governs women participation in the labor force.

Fiscal Justice

MIFTAH promotes access to justice and safeguarding citizens' rights within fiscal policies through taking a leading role in institutionalization of transparency and accountability measures within ministries, enhancing social justice within the Tax system in Palestine, building networks and alliances among regional and international networks in public campaigning for enhancing fiscal justice and conducting policy meetings to engage public servants, policy makers with civil society organizations to promote transparency and accountability related fiscal policies.



Promotion of Human Rights

MIFTAH works towards enhancing implementation of human rights instruments, mainly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the occupied State of Palestine through; building the capacity of a group of Palestinian youth media and law graduates and Palestinian community-based and civil society organizations to monitor and document human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces and those incurred due to gaps in Palestinian legislative framework, opening dialogue with national and international stakeholders to identify practical steps to promote protection of the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized social groups and organizing advocacy efforts through mobilizing youth to present the violations Palestinians are subjected to before national and international platforms in order to hold occupation authorities accountable to violations perpetrated against Palestinians.

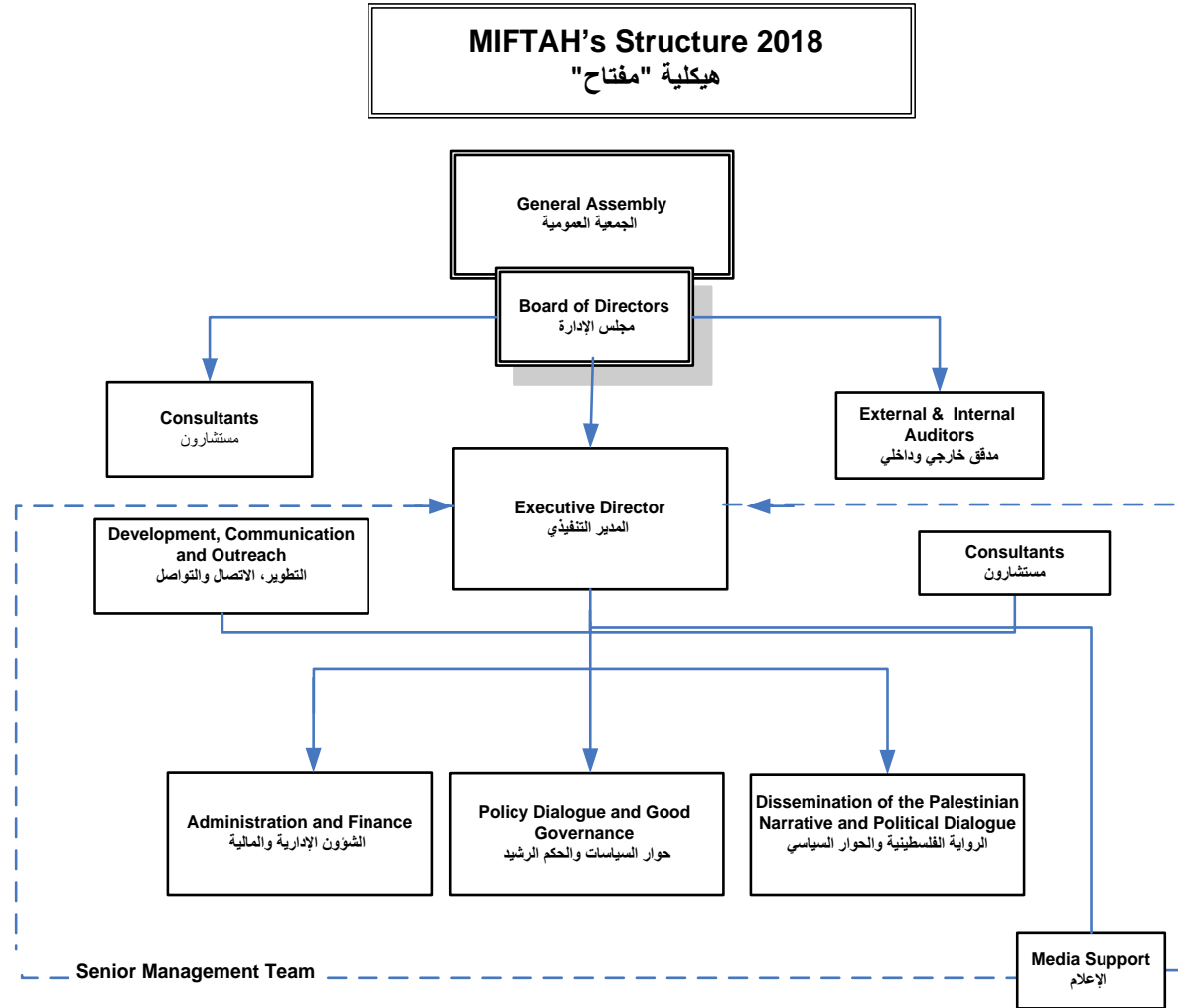
Palestinian Narrative

MIFTAH continues to contribute to the promotion of and increasing awareness about the Palestinian narrative at the global level (Global Dialogue) through; hosting international delegations, conducting briefings and discussion sessions, holding meetings with diplomatic missions, developing “Facts and Figures” offering specific information on subjects related to the Palestinian condition, Palestinian-Israeli conflict and final status issues, shedding light on critical political opinions, drafting political statements, position papers, interviews with political figures, reports and studies, and factsheets to bolster solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Political Dialogue

MIFTAH aims at reviving the national internal dialogue on timely political issues through holding policy dialogue sessions to enhance multichannel communication among all sectors of society, including political leaders, government, and civil-society organizations. The sessions are held with the view of following up on upcoming political issues, through engaging politicians, academics, ministers and decision-makers in open and candid exchange of information and ideas.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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- ✓ Sabih Masri

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi - Chairperson

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi is a distinguished Palestinian leader, legislator, activist, and scholar who served as a member of the Leadership Committee and as an official spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace process, beginning with the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991. Making history as the first woman to hold a seat in the highest executive body in Palestine, she was elected as member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization in 2009 and most recently in 2018. In the realm of academia.



Dr. Ashrawi served as the Palestinian Minister of Higher Education and Research from 1996 to 1998 and as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Birzeit University from 1986 to 1990. As a civil society activist, she founded the Independent Commission for Human Rights (1994), MIFTAH, the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (1998) and AMAN, the National Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (1999). She serves on the advisory and international boards of several global, regional and local organizations, and she is the recipient of numerous awards from all over the world and several academic accolades, including eleven honorary doctorates from universities in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and the Arab world.



NETWORKS AND ADVOCACY

MIFTAH is a founding member of AMAN Coalition (The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity-AMAN) and has been a member ever since.

MIFTAH is a co-founder in the Palestinian Women National Coalition for the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

MIFTAH is an active member in:

- ✓ The Civil Society Coalition for Amending the Penal Law,
- ✓ Al-Muntada (NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women),
- ✓ Al-Muntada (Forum for Gender and Local Governance),
- ✓ The Civil Society Team for Public Budget Transparency (CSTPBT),
- ✓ The National Committee for Palestinian Women's Employment,
- ✓ The Higher National Committee for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325
- ✓ The non-Governmental Women Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- ✓ The Coalition for the Protection of Women from the Dangers of Unsafe Abortion
- ✓ The National Campaign for Minimum Wage
- ✓ The Civil Coalition for Control of the Legislative Process
- ✓ The Civil Coalition for Promoting Civil Peace and the Rule of Law
- ✓ The Civil Society Coalition for the Monitoring of Elections Financing
- ✓ The Arab Regional Network on Women, Peace, and Security- El Karama



MIFTAH's PARTNERS



Representative Office of Norway
to the Palestinian Authority



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Kvinna till Kvinna



Canada



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



HEINRICH
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Stiftung



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

BRITISH
COUNCIL



National Endowment
for Democracy
Supporting freedom around the world



Uniting against Poverty



OXFAM



European Institute of the Mediterranean

The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of **Global Dialogue and Democracy** MIFTAH

المبادرة الفلسطينية لتعميق الحوار العالمي والديمقراطية



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