



Ministry of Women's Affairs

**Situation of Women in alignment with UNSCR 1325
on the eve of 8th of March**

March 8, 2026

Minister's Statement :

This year, International Women's Day on March 8 comes at an exceptionally complex and critical stage in the history of the Palestinian people, over two years after the onset of the war of mass devastation, whose profound impacts continue to this day. Violations have not ceased; rather, they have escalated, taking increasingly severe forms in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

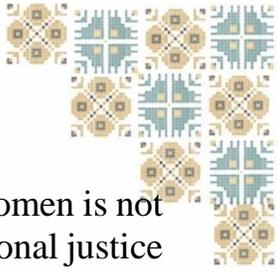
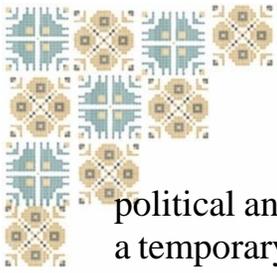
In the West Bank, military escalation coincides with unilateral Israeli decisions aimed at consolidating creeping annexation, most recently through the expansion of Palestinian land seizure under the designation of "state land" and the tightening of control over Area C, including land confiscation, restrictions on Palestinian construction, and limitations on access to natural resources. These policies constitute blatant violations of international law, undermine the foundations of development and stability, and threaten Palestinian presence in vital areas, particularly villages and Bedouin and agricultural communities.

Systematic settler violence in the West Bank is also on the rise, ranging from physical assaults and property destruction to home and agricultural land raids, in the absence of accountability. This creates a persistent environment of fear and insecurity, impeding women's ability to move freely, work, manage their projects, and access their lands and livelihoods.

Palestinian women bear a double burden in this context: land confiscation means loss of income, restrictions on movement mean economic exclusion, and escalating violence forces them out of the public sphere.

In this regard, the **National Observatory** serves as a central tool for monitoring and documenting occupation violations and settler terror, and for analyzing their differentiated impacts on women and girls. The observatory documents land confiscations, attacks on women in Area C, and violations at checkpoints, linking them to international legal obligations, thereby strengthening our capacity to activate accountability mechanisms and prevent impunity.

We also emphasize the special significance of **United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution L.28** on the situation of Palestinian women and their assistance, which stresses the protection of Palestinian women under occupation, acknowledges the disproportionate impacts they bear as a result of armed conflict and systematic violations, and calls for international support and accountability for violations committed against them. This resolution constitutes an international



political and legal reference, affirming that the suffering of Palestinian women is not a temporary humanitarian issue but a matter of human rights and international justice that requires concrete action.

In line with our national vision for implementing **UN Security Council Resolution 1325**, we consider that applying the resolution in the Palestinian context is directly linked to confronting annexation and settlement policies, enhancing protection, expanding participation, and consolidating accountability. The third generation of the National Action Plan for 1325 places women at the core of relief, rapid recovery, reconstruction, protection and prevention, participation, and accountability efforts, based on international law and decisions of international legitimacy, including ESC Resolution L.28.

Accordingly, we renew our clear call to the international community, relevant UN mechanisms, and competent international courts and bodies to fulfill their legal and ethical responsibilities, and to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for policies of creeping annexation, land confiscation, and grave violations against Palestinian women, including sexual violence and abuse in detention centers, which constitute flagrant violations of the Geneva Conventions, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law.

Preserving the dignity of Palestinian women and protecting their rights to land, security, work, and participation lies at the heart of the international justice we seek, and is a true test of the international community's commitment to its own resolutions.

H.E. Mona Al-Khalili
Minister of Women's Affairs

Introduction:

This report examines the status of the implementation of **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security** in the Palestinian context, amid escalating violations that directly and disproportionately affect women and girls.

The report focuses on the four pillars of the resolution: **prevention, protection, participation, and recovery/relief**, and addresses the challenges associated with its implementation in the context of ongoing demolitions, forced displacement, arrests, and restrictions on access to essential services. It emphasizes that these practices constitute clear violations of **international humanitarian law**, including the **Geneva Conventions**, and contravene international obligations related to the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

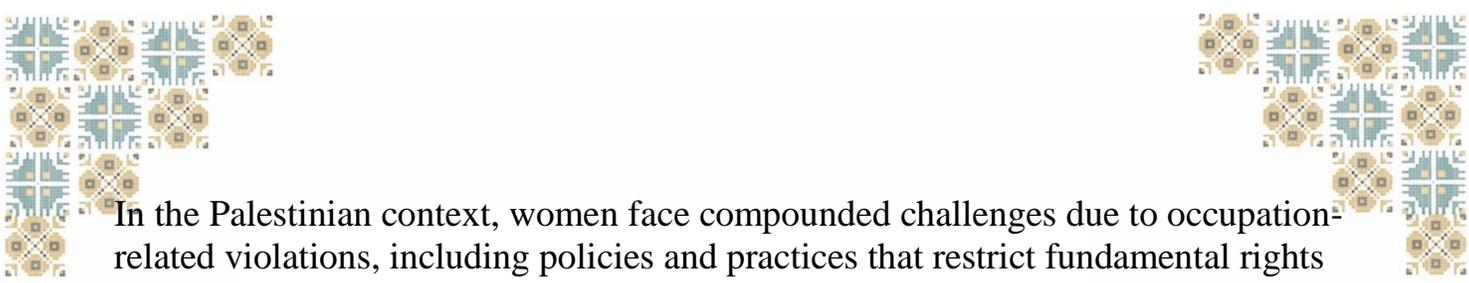
The report also reviews the progress made by the **Ministry of Women's Affairs** in developing the **third generation of the National Action Plan (2026–2028)**, which focuses on relief, recovery, and reconstruction, while expanding protection, participation, and economic empowerment indicators, and strengthening monitoring mechanisms. This includes preparations for the launch of the **National Observatory on Violence** and the development of the **National Referral System**.

The report concludes with a set of recommendations calling for:

- The integration of a **gender perspective** into emergency response and reconstruction plans;
- Strengthening documentation and accountability mechanisms;
- Supporting the **economic empowerment of widows and women-headed households**;
- Ensuring alignment of national policies with international obligations under **Resolution 1325**.

Status of the Implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda 2026 in the Palestinian Context on the Eve of March 8, 2026

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 focuses on the protection of women and girls during times of conflict, enhancing their participation in decision-making and security, and ensuring their access to essential services, including health, education, and economic and social support. The resolution is structured around four pillars: **prevention, protection, participation, and recovery/relief**.



In the Palestinian context, women face compounded challenges due to occupation-related violations, including policies and practices that restrict fundamental rights such as demolitions, arrests, and deprivation of basic needs. These practices directly affect the conditions of women and girls, limiting their access to services and participation in decision-making. They also exacerbate the difficulty of implementing the resolution's objectives on the ground.

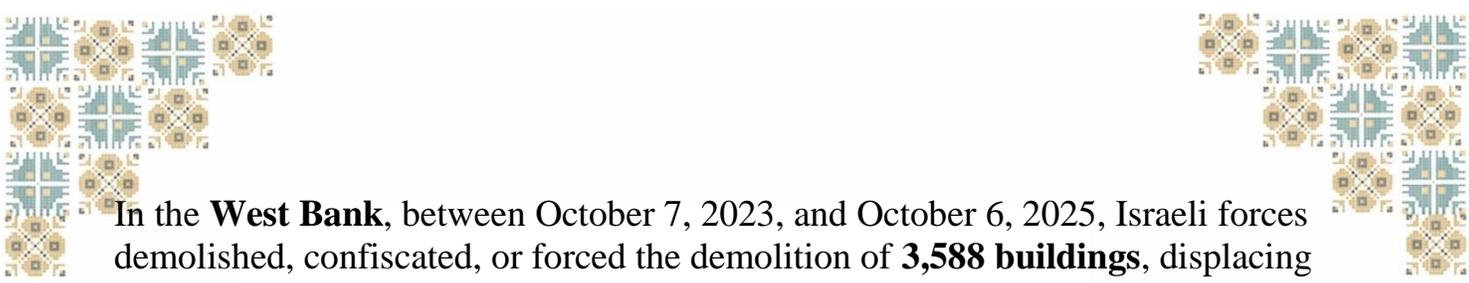
Additional structural challenges hinder its implementation in Palestine, particularly given the unique legal status of the State of Palestine at the United Nations as a **non-member observer state since 2012**, which poses further obstacles to expanding international advocacy mechanisms.

Despite the general framework of Resolution 1325, which addresses the situation of women in armed conflicts without targeting specific contexts, the **Ministry of Women's Affairs**, in partnership with civil society organizations, human rights institutions, and members of the National Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325, views the resolution as an international advocacy framework. It is employed to highlight the reality of Palestinian women under occupation, linking documented violations to international legal frameworks, and to develop successive national action plans that reflect the specificity of the Palestinian context while connecting international obligations with national priorities.

Documenting Violations Against Women

In addition to health, education, economic, and social violations affecting women, and violations specifically targeting female detainees, ongoing violations increasingly affect all aspects of life and essential resources, particularly housing. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli aggression has caused massive destruction to residential infrastructure:

- **268,000 housing units** were completely destroyed.
- **148,000 units** were severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable.
- **153,000 units** were partially damaged.
- Over **288,000 families** lost their shelter, and more than **125,000 tents** out of 135,000 became worn out and uninhabitable.
- **Widows and women-headed households:** Approximately **14,000 women** in Gaza lost their spouses and became solely responsible for their families, increasing their exposure to psychological and social pressures, and making some more vulnerable to abuse or economic and social exploitation within the community or in overcrowded camps.



In the **West Bank**, between October 7, 2023, and October 6, 2025, Israeli forces demolished, confiscated, or forced the demolition of **3,588 buildings**, displacing **7,164 Palestinians**, including **2,014 women** and **3,071 children**.

- Demolitions included: **1,297 inhabited residential units**, **235 uninhabited units**, **979 agricultural facilities**, **310 water and sanitation facilities**, and **557 livelihood-related structures**.
- Approximately **92 incidents** of demolition and infrastructure destruction occurred, mainly in **Tulkarm, Nur Shams, and Jenin refugee camps**, in addition to **118 other scattered demolition incidents**.

These practices constitute clear violations of **international humanitarian law**, including the **Geneva Conventions** on the protection of civilians. They threaten women's fundamental rights and the right to an adequate standard of living, and contravene Palestine's international obligations under **UN Security Council Resolution 1325** and subsequent measures regarding the protection of women and girls in conflict settings.

The impact of these violations is evident in the difficulty of securing housing, food, and income, which increases poverty rates and forces some families to rely on the **informal labor market** or **high-interest loans**, with consequent effects on family and social stability.

Progress Achieved by the Ministry in Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325

The **Ministry of Women's Affairs** leads the efforts to prepare and develop successive national action plans for the implementation of **UN Security Council Resolution 1325**, as it serves as the head of the **National Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325**. In collaboration with partners within the National Committee, the Ministry developed the **third generation of the National Action Plan (2026–2028)**. This three-year plan focuses primarily on **relief, recovery, and reconstruction**, with particular attention to the most affected areas and to responding to the needs of women, especially widows and mothers. The plan also expands the scope of indicators to include **protection, participation, and economic and social empowerment**, and strengthens **accountability and transparency mechanisms** to document violations and link them to national and international policies.

In this context, the Ministry has also developed monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, including the **National Observatory on Violence**, which is expected

to be launched in the near future. The observatory will support the collection of accurate and updated data on women exposed to occupation-related violations. Additionally, the Ministry has developed the **National Referral System** and strengthened the **Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1325**, ensuring a unified national effort to protect women from violations.

At the international level, the Ministry supports advocacy and accountability efforts by documenting and monitoring violations and linking them to **international legal frameworks**. It participates in submitting regular reports to the **UN Security Council** and **United Nations bodies** on the progress of 1325 implementation, including **voluntary reports** and reports on **Women, Peace, and Security**.

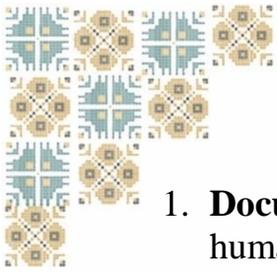
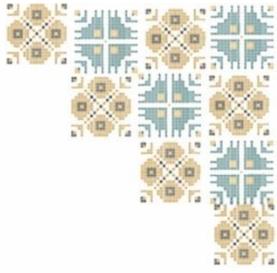
Recommendations

In light of the data presented in this report, and based on **UN Security Council Resolution 1325**, **ECOSOC Resolution L.28** on the situation and assistance of Palestinian women, and guided by the **WDO report on the multidimensional impacts of conflict on women**, the **Ministry of Women's Affairs** recommends the following:

1. Protection and Prevention

1. **Mandatory integration of a gender perspective** in all national emergency plans, relief plans, and reconstruction plans to ensure:
 - Safe and non-discriminatory access for women to housing, healthcare, food, and water.
 - Consideration of the specific needs of widows, women-headed households, displaced women, and released female detainees.
2. **Establishment of a national early warning mechanism** linked to the National Observatory on Violence to monitor:
 - Escalation of demolition and displacement in Area C.
 - Settler attacks and their direct impact on women's economic and social security.
 - Cases of sexual violence and abuse in detention centers.

2. Monitoring, Documentation, and Accountability

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1. **Document violations against women** according to international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions to ensure:
 - Data can be used before international mechanisms.
 - National documentation is linked to international advocacy efforts.
 2. **Activate national legal referral mechanisms** and link them to reports submitted to:
 - The UN Security Council
 - The Human Rights Council
 - UN agencies responsible for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda
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3. Participation and Decision-Making

1. **Ensure women's representation**, especially from affected areas, in planning committees for reconstruction and recovery, reflecting the principle of **meaningful participation** outlined in Resolution 1325.
 2. **Support local women leaders** and enhance their capacities in:
 - Rights documentation
 - International advocacy
 - Participation in peacebuilding and recovery processes
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4. Recovery and Economic Empowerment

Based on the WDO report highlighting that women in conflict settings bear disproportionate economic burdens, economic empowerment should be integral to protection frameworks.

1. **Direct economic recovery programs towards:**
 - Widows and women-headed households in Gaza.
 - Women affected by demolitions and confiscations in the West Bank.
2. **Design livelihood support programs** that integrate:
 - Social protection
 - Psychosocial support
 - Access to safe microfinance
3. **Link economic empowerment programs** to the **Third National Action Plan (2026–2028)** to ensure a transition from emergency response to sustainable recovery.

5. International Level

1. Call on the international community to:

- Ensure practical implementation of **ECOSOC Resolution L.28** by translating its commitments into tangible protection measures and direct support for women affected by occupation and conflict.
- Provide technical and financial support to strengthen national protection mechanisms, develop monitoring and documentation systems, and support the National Observatory on Violence, ensuring accurate data collection usable for relevant international mechanisms.
- Apply systematic pressure to halt creeping annexation policies, land confiscations under the “state lands” designation, and control over Area C, as these constitute violations of international law and undermine women’s rights to land, housing, and livelihoods.
- Dispatch independent international fact-finding missions to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza and the West Bank, to investigate serious violations against women and girls, ensure documentation according to international standards, and submit binding recommendations to competent bodies.

2. **Emphasize the need to activate international accountability mechanisms** and prevent impunity, particularly regarding:

- Sexual violence, mistreatment, and physical and psychological abuse of women and girls, including in detention facilities.
- Violations against Palestinian female prisoners, ensuring independent and transparent international investigations.
- Forced displacement, large-scale demolition, and land confiscation, as these may constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.
- Ensure investigation results are referred to competent international judicial mechanisms and strengthen the role of UN agencies responsible for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in following up on these cases.