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مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية  
Arab World For Research & Development

**Press Release**  
**Date: 20 February 2008**

**AWRAD's New Poll Reveals:**

**Widespread Support for Amending Personal Status/Family Law**

**Majority Opposes the Law that Allows Honor Killings**

**Majority Calls for Laws that Protect Women from Violence**

**Majority Supports Quota for Women in Parliament**

**Majority Prefers a Qualified Man to a Qualified Woman for Government Positions**

The Arab World for Research and Development, (AWRAD) has conducted a specialized opinion poll dated 2-5 February 2008 on the status of Palestinian women and gender relations. A representative sample, of 2400 Palestinians representing all districts in the West Bank and Gaza was interviewed. This poll is part of a study that AWRAD has launched to address gender-based relations and the status of Palestinian women and men. The results of this poll will be incorporated in the study that seeks to understand the internal and external factors that affect women's participation in social, economic and political life. It also seeks to assess the status of women's rights and the relationship structures among women and men. More importantly, the study will provide women's and human rights organizations with an opportunity to reassess their approaches and tools in serving Palestinian women and society.

Ms. Reem Ziad-Ghattas, a principal researcher, argues that the data reveals the need to empower women's organizations and to make fundamental improvements to their current approaches. Ms. Ghattas also argues that the data provides a mixed evaluation of the outreach programs of Palestinian women's organizations. Most women and men say that they did not benefit from the services provided by these organizations. Dr. Nader Said, AWRAD's Director, asserts that the current poll reveals stunning results. On the one hand, support for social and economic rights for women has increased compared with a decade ago, but, on the other hand, support for women's political rights has significantly declined. Dr. Said says that this reflects a growing disappointment with politics and political institutions and parties in general. The most important finding, in Dr. Said's assessment, is the widespread support for amending the existing family and penalties laws that pervasively discriminate against women. The majority of the respondents support amending the laws that allow arbitrary divorce, polygamy and honor killings. Dr.

Said says that these findings give important ammunition to the women's movement and legislators to have the courage to stand up for fundamental changes in the law with the backing of the majority of Palestinians. It was also noticeable that women are generally more supportive of women rights than men, refuting a common belief that women are the enemies of their own rights.

### **The following are the main results of the poll**

#### **1- The status of men and women in society**

- 80% of Palestinian respondents recognize that women are oppressed to a large extent or to some extent in society.
- In contrast, 42% recognize that men are oppressed to a large extent or to some extent in society.
- 18% consider the relationships between men and women in their communities as based on equal rights and duties. Another 47% believe that these relations are based on division of labor between men and women. In contrast, 30% say that the relationship between men and women is based on discrimination against women.
- 80% believe that economic conditions constitute a very important obstacle in the face of women's rights. Another 79% believe that violence against women stands in the way of women attaining their rights.
- 78% consider the emotional and psychological impact of the Occupation as an important factor affecting the status of Palestinian women.
- 76% believe that internal conditions, especially factional fighting, have an important negative impact on the status of women.

#### **2- Priorities:**

- Education, health, employment and combating early marriage are among the most important priorities for Palestinian women.
- 96% said that ensuring access of education for women is important.
- 94% said that the provision of proper social security and health services is important to Palestinian women.
- Over 82% believe that enacting laws that prevent violence against women and reduce arbitrary divorce is important.
- 78% said that securing job opportunities for women is important.
- When respondents were asked to rank priorities, education came at number one, followed by increasing the age of marriage, provision of social and health security, provision of job opportunities and enacting laws that protect women from violence.

### **3- Economic Participation**

- The majority of respondents (94%) believe that women play an important role in economic life. This realization does not always translate to recognition of women's rights.
- A quarter of the respondents support the right of women to work outside of the home, as a natural right. About 28% support women's work under specific conditions, and 33% support it if it does not interfere in her household duties. Only 13% announce their opposition for the work of women outside of the home.
- In relation to the division of household duties, 40% of the families said that the household duties are the responsibility of women only. Another 48% said that women do all of the household work, but men help sometimes. Only 11% said that household's work is divided equally between the men and the women in the family. Less than 1% said that it is mainly men who do the household work and women occasionally help.

### **4- Violence against women**

- Respondents were asked if a man has the right to hit his wife if he believes that is appropriate. A majority of 77% opposed that the husband has such a right.
- In contrast, 22% of the respondents support that a man has the right to hit his wife if he believes it is appropriate.
- Support for this right declines if it is applied by a husband against a close relative. Still, 17% feel that is the right of a sister's husband to hit his wife if he believes it is appropriate.
- If a woman has the right to hit her husband, is another question as the data reveal. Less than 4% support that the wife has the right to hit her husband if she believes it is appropriate. In contrast, 96% opposed such a position. It was interesting to note that men were slightly more supportive.

### **5- Political participation**

- The present poll shows significant decline in support for the political participation of women. For example, during the period of 1996-2006, the level of willingness to elect a woman for the parliament was about 72%. This poll shows a 20 point decline.
- At the present time, about 53% of the respondents would be willing to vote for a woman candidate for the parliament, while one third are not willing to do that.
- During the parliamentary elections of 2006, 22% of the general population reported that they had voted for a woman in their district. This is about 30% of those who actually voted during that election.
- Support for a competent woman to be a president does not exceed 24% among the respondents. About 60% oppose the appointment of a competent woman for the position of the president.

- For the prime minister position, 36% support the appointment of a competent woman, while 60% oppose.
- About 49% support the appointment of a woman to the position of party leader, while 48% oppose.
- A majority (53%) support the appointment of a competent woman to the position of mayors, while 44% oppose.
- A majority (57%) support the appointment of a competent woman to the position of minister, while 40% oppose.
- A majority (66%) support the appointment of a competent woman to the position of union leader, while 44% oppose.
- The respondents were asked to answer one of the most important questions that measure gender bias (If two equally competent persons, a man and a woman, were considered for the position of a minister, who would you choose?). The vast majority of 73% said that they would choose a man, while 18% said that they would choose a woman.
- As for the role of female members in local councils, 48% of respondents evaluated their role as good or average. This is compared to 71% positive evaluation for the performance of male members.
- The majority (69%) support the allocation of a quota for women in the electoral law, compared to 27% who oppose it.
- Among those who support, 48% support a quota that is 30% or more. Approximately 27% support a quota of 20% and 26% support a quota of 10%. The current quota for parliament is 10% and for local councils is 20%.

## **6- Legal reform**

Various initiatives were led by women and human rights organizations to change the current Palestinian laws, especially the family and penalties laws. The results of this poll lend a great deal of support for the calls to amend the laws to further protect women.

- This poll shows that 45% of respondents think that the current laws are not fair for women. In contrast, 38% feel that they are fair.
- In the case that laws that protect women exist, 40% think that they are not applied, while 40% feel that they are applied.
- 77% of the respondents believe that laws must be enacted to protect women from domestic violence. Only 17% said that this was not necessary.
- In addition, 86% support that the penalties law be amended to include clauses that protect women.
- A majority of 74% support the amendment of the current law that allows honor killings, where the new law should prevent men from taking the law in their own hands.
- An overwhelming majority of 89% supports the amendment of the law that allows arbitrary divorce, and calls for a law that allows divorce only before a judge in a court.
- Only 23% support the preservation of the current law that allows polygamy as is. The majority is willing to accept a conditional approach to polygamy and opposes the arbitrary nature of the current practices. About

56% support the amendment of the current law to allow for a proper verification of the reasons behind an additional marriage, and if any legitimate reasons exist. Another 12% say that the law should be amended to where the first wife is informed beforehand of the new marriage. About 7% want to see polygamy completely prohibited.

- 28% say that the current inheritance law is not applied, meaning that women get no inheritance according to the law. Another 41% say that the law is partially applied. Only 30% say that the inheritance law is applied.
- Over 92% call upon the executive authorities and courts to apply the inheritance laws to ensure that women get their share.
- At the same time, 79% support keeping the law of inheritance as is, where a woman gets half of the man's share (in accordance with Sharia' Law). Over 10% want a law that guarantees equality between men and women in inheritance. At the same time, 8% want a law that gives men and women according to their needs.

## **7- The role of women's and human rights organizations**

Despite the fact that women and human rights groups have a long history in Palestine, where they made significant contributions, the results of this poll show a mixed) evaluation by Palestinian respondents. The results call upon these organizations to reassess their vision, methods and field of interest. The results show the following:

- 74% of respondents say that they do not know about any women's or human rights organizations that defend women's rights.
- 8% of the female respondents and 4% of the male respondents say that they had sought the services of women rights organizations.
- In total, 4% said that they had frequently participated in activities organized by women's rights organizations during the last two years. Another 9% reported that they had participated occasionally. In addition, 3% reported that they had participated only once during the last two years. The rest (84%) reported that they did not participate in any activity by women rights groups.
- 41% of the respondents stated that they have watched or heard a radio or a TV show that promoted women's rights during the last 2 years. Furthermore, 44% of the women and 39% of the men stated that they did.
- In contrast, 45% believe that women's right organizations play a positive role in the development of society. In addition, 36% say that they play a positive role to an extent.
- Again, 58% of the respondents believe that women organizations play a positive role in promoting awareness within society. Another 29% believe that they play a positive role to an extent.

## 8- Gender gaps

The views of women and men were somewhat different on most issues. Women tend to be more supportive of women rights than men. The following are some examples:

- 15% of the women and 25% of the men feel that women are not oppressed in society.
- 8% of the women and 18% of the men are against women working outside of the home.
- 32% of the women and 28% of the men say that they had voted for a woman during the 2006 parliamentary election in their districts.
- 42% of the women and 31% of the men support the appointment of a woman as a prime minister.
- 83% of the men would pick a man over an equally qualified woman for the ministerial posts, while 63% of the women would do the same (20 points difference).
- 48% of the women and 32% of the men support increasing the number of seats allocated for women in local councils.
- 57% of the women support a quota that exceeds 30% of the seats, while only 39% of the men share that view.
- 83% of the women and 71% of the men support enacting laws that protect women from domestic violence.
- 28% of the men support keeping the laws that allow honor killing; 18% of the woman share their view.
- 34% of the men support keeping the law that permits polygamy as is, compared with 12% of the women (22 point difference).
- 31% of the men believe that a man has the right to hit his wife, compared with 13% of the women who feel the same way (18 point difference).
- 5% of the men and 3% of the women believe that a woman has the right to hit her husband if she feels it is appropriate.
- 18% of the women and 14% of the men attended activities organized by women's groups during the last two years.
- 91% of the women and 84% of the men believe that women's groups play a positive role in development.

## Results of an Opinion Poll

*Palestinian Women:  
Challenges and Priorities  
Social and Economic Rights  
Political Participation  
Legal Reform  
The Role of Women & Human Rights Organizations  
Overall Trends*

**Publication Date: Wednesday, 20 Feb 2008**

**Field work: 2-5 February 2008**

**Sample Size: 2400 Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza  
Margin of error:  $\pm 2$**

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## Section One: Challenges and Priorities

1. To what extent do you feel that women are oppressed in Palestinian society (for social reasons)?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Extremely oppressed	26.4	21.3	34.8
To an extent oppressed	53.1	57.3	46.0
Not oppressed	19.6	20.4	18.3
Don't know/No opinion	0.9	1.0	0.8

2. To what extent do you feel that men are oppressed in Palestinian society (for social reasons)?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Oppressed to a large extent	14.2	9.5	21.9
Oppressed to some extent	27.7	27.5	28.1
Not oppressed	57.0	61.7	49.1
Don't know/ No opinion	1.1	1.3	0.9

3. Within your household, how do you describe the relationship between women and men? Is it.....?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Based on discrimination against women	6.0	4.6	8.2
Based on division of roles, where women work in the house and men work outside	55.0	57.9	50.3
Based on equality in rights and duties	37.1	35.9	39.1
Other	1.9	1.7	2.3

4. Within your extended family, how do you describe the relationship between women and men? Is it.....?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Based on discrimination against women	12.7	11.9	14.2
Based on division of roles, where women work in the house and men work outside	56.0	59.2	50.6
Based on equality in rights and duties	28.8	27.4	31.1
Other	2.5	1.6	4.1

5. Within your local community, how do you describe the relationship between women and men? Is it.....?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Based on discrimination against women	30.0	27.0	35.1
Based on division of roles, where women work in the house and men work outside	47.1	50.9	40.8
Based on equality in rights and duties	18.1	19.3	16.0
Other	4.8	2.8	8.0

6. How do you evaluate the importance of the following internal obstacles as they stand in the way of realizing women's rights?

### Domestic violence

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Important	78.6	79.8	76.6
Somewhat important	12.4	12.0	13.1
Not important	8.6	7.7	10.1
Don't know/No opinion	0.4	0.5	0.2

**Family constraints on personal freedom**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	61.5	60.3	63.4
Somewhat important	25.9	27.9	22.4
Not important at all	12.0	11.0	13.6
Don't know/No opinion	0.7	0.8	0.6

**Weakness of educational services for women**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	73.6	75.6	70.4
Somewhat important	16.9	17.8	15.5
Not important	9.0	6.1	13.8
Don't know/No opinion	0.5	0.6	0.3

**Weakness of health services for women**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	77.7	78.7	75.9
Somewhat important	14.6	14.4	14.8
Not important	7.1	6.0	8.9
Don't know/No opinion	0.7	0.8	0.5

**Weakness of laws protecting women's rights**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	74.9	74.2	76.0
Somewhat important	17.5	18.8	15.3
Not important	6.9	6.1	8.1
Don't know/No opinion	0.8	0.9	0.6

**Internal conflict between political fractions**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	68.3	62.8	77.5
Somewhat important	17.1	19.7	12.7
Not important	12.6	15.1	8.5
Don't know/No opinion	2.0	2.4	1.3

**Traditions and values that constrain women's freedom**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	64.6	62.4	68.4
Somewhat important	23.3	24.9	20.5
Not important	11.7	12.1	11.0
Don't know/No opinion	0.4	0.6	0.1

**Economic problems**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	85.4	83.7	88.2
Somewhat important	10.4	11.7	8.2
Not important	3.9	4.1	3.6
Don't know/No opinion	0.3	0.4	0.0

**7. How important is the role of the following factors in influencing the status of Palestinian women?****Ignorance of the importance of women's role**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	81.2	82.2	79.3
Somewhat important	13.4	13.5	13.2
Not important	4.8	3.4	7.1
Don't know/ No opinion	0.6	0.8	0.3

**Unemployment and economic conditions**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	83.4	81.5	86.5
Somewhat important	12.9	14.7	9.9
Not important	3.1	2.8	3.5
Don't know/ No opinion	0.6	1.0	0.0

**Psychological effects of the Israeli occupation**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	78.0	74.2	84.3
Somewhat important	17.7	20.9	12.3
Not important	3.7	3.9	3.3
Don't know/ No opinion	0.6	0.9	0.1

**Culture that reinforces men's domination over women**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	58.7	56.5	62.3
Somewhat important	26.7	28.3	24.0
Not important	13.5	13.8	13.0
Don't know/ No opinion	1.1	1.4	0.8

**Unequal laws**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	65.3	64.8	66.0
Somewhat important	22.8	23.5	21.5
Not important	10.5	9.9	11.5
Don't know/ No opinion	1.5	1.8	1.0

**Women themselves do not believe in their rights**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	60.1	57.2	64.9
Somewhat important	28.7	30.4	25.9
Not important	9.4	10.0	8.4
Don't know/ No opinion	1.7	2.3	0.8

**Leaders who advocate against women's rights**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	50.7	46.7	57.6
Somewhat important	21.2	23.4	17.6
Not important	24.2	24.5	23.6
Don't know/ No opinion	3.9	5.4	1.3

**Early marriages**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	76.3	76.3	76.2
Somewhat important	14.4	14.6	13.9
Not important	8.6	8.0	9.8
Don't know/ No opinion	0.7	1.1	0.1

**Internal political problems**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	76.2	71.5	84.1
Somewhat important	15.8	19.2	10.2
Not important	6.3	7.2	4.9
Don't know/ No opinion	1.6	2.1	0.8

8. In relation to the needs of Palestinian women, how important are the following?

**Access to education for women**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	96.3	96.4	96.1
Somewhat important	2.6	2.4	3.0
Not important	1.0	1.2	0.6
Don't know/No opinion	0.1	0.0	0.2

**Providing employment opportunities for women**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	78.3	80.2	75.1
Somewhat important	16.7	15.1	19.4
Not important	5.0	4.7	5.5
Don't know/No opinion	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Making kindergartens available to working women**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	73.7	70.8	78.6
Somewhat important	17.6	18.9	15.2
Not important	8.4	9.8	6.2
Don't know/No opinion	0.3	0.5	0.0

**Enacting laws that protect women from violence**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	81.6	82.4	80.2
Somewhat important	11.5	11.6	11.3
Not important	6.5	5.7	7.9
Don't know/No opinion	0.4	0.3	0.6

**Enacting laws that reduce (arbitrary) divorce against women**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	83.9	84.0	83.9
Somewhat important	10.5	11.6	8.7
Not important	5.2	4.1	7.0
Don't know/No opinion	0.4	0.3	0.4

**Enacting laws that reduce polygamy**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	59.7	59.2	60.7
Somewhat important	19.0	20.7	16.3
Not important	20.5	19.4	22.5
Don't know/No opinion	0.7	0.8	0.6

**Increasing women's participation in positions**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	70.8	67.1	77.1
Somewhat important	18.6	21.7	13.4
Not important	10.3	10.9	9.4
Don't know/No opinion	0.2	0.3	0.1

**Social security and health insurance**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	94.0	93.4	95.1
Somewhat important	5.2	5.8	4.1
Not important	0.6	0.6	0.8
Don't know/No opinion	0.1	0.2	0.0

**Increasing the age of marriage**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	78.7	78.4	79.1
Somewhat important	12.4	13.8	10.0
Not important	8.6	7.4	10.6
Don't know/No opinion	0.4	0.4	0.3

**9. In your opinion, what is the most important priority among those listed?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Access to education for women	62.9	63.1	62.5
Increasing the age of marriage	8.7	8.7	8.8
Social security and health insurance	7.0	8.1	5.2
Providing employment opportunities for women	6.6	7.1	5.8
Enacting laws that protect women from violence	6.2	5.8	6.8
Enacting laws that reduce (arbitrary) divorce against women	4.1	3.0	5.9
Increasing women's participation in decision-making	2.0	1.9	2.1
Enacting laws that reduce polygamy	1.6	1.8	1.3
Providing kindergartens	0.9	0.6	1.4

**Section Two: Social and Economic Rights****10. Do you support women working outside the home?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes, it's her right	25.1	26.7	22.4
Yes, in certain circumstances	27.9	25.5	31.8
Yes, without affecting her family role	33.4	33.8	32.7
Do not support, women should stay at home	13.4	13.8	12.7
Don't know/ No opinion	0.2	0.1	0.3

**11. In your opinion, how would you describe women's work outside the home?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Positive for the family	21.5	20.1	23.9
Negative for the family	9.3	9.7	8.6
Has positive and negative effects	68.4	69.0	67.4
Don't know/ No opinion	0.7	1.1	0.0

**12. Do you think that women's participation in economic life is....?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	73.4	74.4	71.7
Somewhat important	20.3	19.7	21.3
Not important	5.4	4.8	6.4
Don't Know/No opinion	1.0	1.2	0.6

**13. Do you think that women's role in maintaining family bonds is....?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	93.4	94.2	92.0
Somewhat important	5.5	5.1	6.3
Not important	0.9	0.6	1.5
Don't Know/No opinion	0.2	0.2	0.2

14. In relation to the division of roles regarding household work and childcare, who takes care of this work within your family

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Women	39.8	44.2	32.5
Mainly women, men occasionally help	48.2	44.5	54.3
Equal division between men and women	10.9	10.3	11.8
Mainly men, women occasionally help	0.7	0.8	0.6
Only men	0.5	0.3	0.9

15. In your estimation, how many working hours do men spend inside and outside of the home? (estimates by respondents)

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Average daily working hours	8.23	8.55	7.60

16. In your estimation, how many working hours do women spend inside and outside of the home? (estimates by respondents)

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Average daily working hours	7.70	7.55	7.96

17. Do you think that a husband has the right to hit his wife if he believes it is appropriate?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	22.2	18.7	28.1
No	76.6	80.0	70.9
Don't know	1.2	1.3	1.1

18. Do you think that a wife has the right to hit her husband if she believes it is appropriate?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	3.8	2.5	5.8
No	95.6	96.9	93.3
Don't know	0.7	0.6	0.8

19. Do you support or oppose that your sister's husband (or the husband of any other female relative) hit her if he believes it is appropriate?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	17.1	13.4	23.3
No	81.4	85.0	75.4
Don't know	1.5	1.7	1.3

### *Section Three: Political Participation*

20. Do you think that Palestinian women are active participants in political life?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	35.8	32.0	42.1
To an extent	42.2	45.1	37.3
No	20.5	20.7	20.2
Don't know/ No opinion	1.5	2.2	0.4

21. Do you think that women's participation in political life is important or not?

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes, important	54.9	52.5	58.9
To an extent	28.6	30.0	26.1
No, not important	14.7	15.1	14.0
Don't know/ No opinion	1.9	2.4	0.9

**22. In the last parliamentary elections (2006), did you vote for a woman candidate from the district you live in?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	22.0	22.3	21.5
No	51.8	48.9	56.7
I didn't participate	26.2	28.8	21.8

**23. In the last local council elections, did you vote a woman candidate for your local council?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Doesn't apply/there were no local council elections	47.1	41.6	56.4
Yes	20.5	24.8	13.4
No	32.4	33.7	30.3

**24. If women had the competence, would you support or oppose appointing them to the following positions?**

**President**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	23.6	24.0	22.9
No	72.5	71.0	74.9
Not Sure	4.0	5.1	2.1

**Prime Minister**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	36.2	36.0	36.7
No	60.3	59.6	61.5
Not Sure	3.4	4.4	1.8

**Party Leader**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	48.8	48.9	48.6
No	48.0	47.3	49.1
Not Sure	3.2	3.8	2.2

**Mayor**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	52.5	52.7	52.3
No	44.3	43.9	45.2
Not Sure	3.1	3.5	2.5

**Minister**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	56.6	53.4	61.8
No	40.1	42.3	36.6
Not Sure	3.3	4.3	1.6

**Union Leader**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	66.1	67.1	64.5
No	31.2	29.6	33.8
Not Sure	2.6	3.2	1.7

**25. If a new parliamentary election took place, would you vote for a female candidate?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	53.2	53.0	53.4
No	32.3	31.4	33.7
Not Sure	14.6	15.5	12.9

**26. If two equally competent candidates were considered for a ministerial position, a man and a woman, and you had to choose between them; who would you choose?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Man	73.3	69.8	79.1
Woman	18.1	19.5	15.8
Don't Know	8.6	10.7	5.1

**27. How do you evaluate the role of female members in local councils, municipalities and local committees in refugee camps?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Good	17.6	19.3	14.6
Average	29.7	31.2	27.2
Weak	26.1	28.5	22.3
Don't know	26.7	21.0	36.0

**28. How do you evaluate the role of male members in local councils, municipalities and local committees in refugee camps?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Good	37.8	38.3	36.9
Average	33.1	35.8	28.5
Weak	17.0	16.9	17.1
Don't know	12.2	9.0	17.4

**29. Do you support the increase of number of seats allocated for women in local councils, municipalities and local committees?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	39.8	41.0	37.8
No	48.2	46.4	51.3
Don't know	12.0	12.7	10.9

**30. Did you vote in the last local council elections?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	38.9	46.3	26.6
No	61.1	53.7	73.4

**31. In yes, how important were these factors in selecting the list that you voted for?**

**Educational level of candidate**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Important role	89.6	89.5	89.9
Somewhat important	5.2	4.6	6.9
Not important	5.2	5.9	3.2
Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Integrity of the candidate**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Important role	88.5	88.6	88.2
Somewhat important	6.1	5.4	8.4
Not important	5.1	5.7	3.4
Don't know	0.3	0.4	0.0

**Election program**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	71.4	70.1	75.1
Somewhat important	13.6	13.7	13.2
Not important	14.2	15.3	10.8
Don't know	0.9	0.9	0.9

**Role in the national struggle**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	67.1	63.8	77.2
Somewhat important	15.2	15.9	13.1
Not important	17.0	19.4	9.4
Don't know	0.8	0.9	0.4

**Political affiliation**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important role	60.3	57.8	68.3
Somewhat important	11.8	12.8	8.7
Not important	27.4	29.0	22.5
Don't know	0.4	0.4	0.5

**Religion**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	49.6	48.2	54.3
Somewhat important	19.9	20.6	17.6
Not important	30.1	30.9	27.7
Don't know	0.3	0.3	0.5

**Gender**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	40.5	39.2	44.7
Somewhat important	20.6	20.0	22.3
Not important	38.7	40.5	33.0
Don't know	0.3	0.3	0.0

**Familial relations**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Important	30.2	33.1	20.9
Somewhat important	11.4	11.1	12.0
Not important	58.4	55.6	67.1
Don't know	0.1	0.2	0.0

***Section Four: Legal Reform*****32. The electoral law includes a quota for women in the legislative council and in local councils, do you support this quota?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	53.6	50.9	58.1
Yes, for a certain period until the situation changes	14.6	15.6	13.0
No	26.7	26.6	26.9
Don't know	5.1	6.9	2.0

**33. If yes, what percentage (quota) do you support?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
10 %	25.5	24.2	27.5
20 %	26.8	27.3	26.0
30 %	23.9	23.2	24.9
40 %	6.8	7.8	5.4
50 %	17.0	17.5	16.2

**34. In general, do you think that the current laws are fair towards Palestinian women?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	37.9	37.0	39.5
No	45.2	44.5	46.3
Not sure	16.9	18.6	14.3

**35. In the case that laws that protect women exist, are they implemented?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	41.4	39.3	44.8
No	40.2	39.4	41.6
Not sure	18.4	21.3	13.6

**36. Do you think that there is a need to enact laws that protect women from domestic violence?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	76.9	76.1	78.3
No	16.8	16.4	17.3
Not sure	6.3	7.5	4.4

**37. Do you support or oppose amending the Penalties Law to include clauses that protect women?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Support	85.5	85.2	85.9
Oppose	10.3	10.3	10.2
No opinion	4.3	4.5	3.9

**38. The Penalties Law includes a clause that protects men who kill their female relatives if they believe that she had "shamed family honor," do you support the amendment of this clause or to keep it as it is?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Keep it as it is	22.9	18.7	29.8
Amend it to prohibit men from taking the laws into their own hands	74.1	77.9	67.7
Don't know	3.1	3.4	2.5

**39. According to the current laws men have the right to divorce their wives without reverting to courts (arbitrary divorce); do you support the amendment of this law or keep it as it is?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Keep it as it is	8.1	6.9	10.2
Amend it to make it compulsory for all divorces to take place in courts	89.3	90.8	86.8
Don't know	2.6	2.3	3.0

**40. The current law allows for polygamy without legal monitoring by the courts, do you support the amendment of this law or to keep it as it is?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Keep it as it is	23.3	20.7	27.7
Amend it, to ensure that the judge verifies the existence of "legitimate" reasons for polygamy	56.0	60.0	49.3
Amend it, making sure that the wife is informed beforehand	11.8	10.7	13.6
Amend it making sure that polygamy is prohibited	6.5	6.3	6.9
Don't know	2.3	2.3	2.4

**41. Current law gives women the right to inheritance, where a woman gets half of the man's share; do you think that this law is being applied in our society?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	29.9	30.5	28.9
To some extent	40.6	39.2	42.9
No	27.7	28.4	26.5
Don't know	1.8	1.8	1.7

**42. Do you think that the courts and executive authorities should apply the laws related to inheritances and make sure that both men and women get their legal shares?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	92.6	92.5	92.8
No	4.8	4.6	5.0
Not sure	2.6	2.8	2.1

**43. Regarding the law of inheritance, do you support or oppose the following?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Keep it as it is, where women get the half of what a man gets	78.9	78.0	80.4
Amend the law where all persons (male or female) get their share in inheritance according to their needs and conditions.	7.7	7.9	7.4
Amend the law where men and women get equal shares	10.3	10.5	10.0
Don't know	3.1	3.7	2.2

**44. In your opinion, what is the most appropriate frame of reference for the laws that organize the relationships between men and women?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Human rights and citizenship (every citizen, male or female, has equal rights under the law)	5.7	5.9	5.4
Islamic Shari'a	63.5	63.7	63.2
Both, where the law ensures that women and men have equal rights	30.0	30.0	29.9
Other	0.8	0.4	1.5

## ***Section Five: The Role of Women & Human Rights Organizations***

- 45. Do you know about women or human rights organizations that work in the field of women's rights?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	26.3	24.9	28.7
No	73.7	75.1	71.3

- 46. Do you have any information about the organizations that defend women's rights?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes, I have a substantial amount of information	16.6	14.9	19.0
Yes, I have an average amount of information	50.8	48.5	54.1
Do not have information	32.6	36.6	26.9

- 47. Have you sought the services of women's organizations?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	5.8	4.1	8.7
No	94.2	95.9	91.3

- 48. During the last two years, did you participate in activities organized by women's or human rights organizations that work on women's rights?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes, frequently	4.1	2.6	6.6
Occasionally	8.6	8.6	8.7
Once	3.3	3.4	3.2
I didn't participate	83.9	85.3	81.5

- 49. During the last two years, have you watched or heard a radio or a TV show that defended women's rights?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes, frequently	15.9	13.8	19.5
Occasionally	41.4	40.9	42.1
Once	4.0	4.5	3.2
I didn't	38.7	40.8	35.3

- 50. Do you think that women's organizations and societies contribute positively towards improving women's status and rights?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	45.4	43.7	48.4
To an extent	36.1	36.6	35.5
No	12.2	13.4	10.3
Don't know	6.2	6.4	5.9

- 51. Do you think that women's organizations and societies contribute positively to the development of society?**

	<b>Total (WB&amp;G)</b>	<b>West Bank</b>	<b>Gaza</b>
Yes	47.2	45.8	49.7
To an extent	36.2	37.1	34.5
No	11.4	11.5	11.2
Don't know	5.2	5.6	4.5

**52. Do you think that women's organizations and societies contribute to promoting women's awareness of their rights?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	57.6	57.6	57.5
To an extent	29.1	29.5	28.5
No	8.9	8.7	9.4
Don't know	4.4	4.3	4.6

**53. Do you think that women's organizations and societies contribute to promoting men's awareness of women's rights?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Yes	42.0	39.6	46.0
To an extent	27.8	26.6	29.8
No	23.8	27.2	18.1
Don't know	6.5	6.6	6.1

***Section Six: Overall Trends***

**54. Do you think that Palestinian society is heading in the right or wrong direction?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Right Direction	20.1	19.3	21.4
Wrong Direction	70.6	69.2	72.8
Don't know/No Opinion	9.3	11.4	5.7

**55. Which one of the following is the best means in terms of its capability to end the occupation and to establish a Palestinian state?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Operations against civilians in Israeli cities	4.2	1.7	8.6
Operations against the Israeli military and settlers	25.4	20.9	32.9
Negotiation until reaching an agreement between the two parties	47.4	52.5	38.9
A peaceful popular uprising (Intifada)	16.5	17.6	14.7
Others	6.5	7.4	5.0

**56. Which one of the following political parties do you support?**

	Total (WB&G)	West Bank	Gaza
Fatah	33.3	34.9	30.6
Hamas	14.9	12.3	19.2
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)	3.7	3.3	4.4
Islamic Jihad	2.5	1.5	4.2
Al Mubadara	2.0	2.4	1.3
Palestinian People's Party (PPP)	1.3	0.2	3.1
Islamic Liberation Party (Tahreer)	0.9	1.1	0.7
Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)	0.6	0.7	0.4
Fida	0.0	0.0	0.0
None of the above	40.8	43.7	36.1

## Results of an Opinion Poll

(Sample Distribution)

Field work: 2-5 February 2008

Publication Date: Wednesday 20 February, 2008

Sample Size: 2400 Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza

Margin of error:  $\pm 2$

Region	%	Type of locality	%	Refugee Status	%
West Bank	62.6	City	38.5	Refugee	44.0
Gaza Strip	37.4	Village- town	41.5	Non-refugee	56.0
Governorate	%	Camp	19.9	Sector	%
Jenin	6.7	Gender	%	Government	29.9
Tulkarem	4.4	Male	50.4	Private sector	46.3
Qalqilya	2.5	Female	49.6	Other	23.8
Nablus	8.6	Marital status	%	Education	%
Salfit	1.6	Single	22.5	1 Up to 9 yrs	34.1
Tubas	1.2	Married	72.4	2 Secondary/Tawjihi (9-12 yrs)	36.6
Ramallah	7.5	Others	5.1	3 More than Tawjihi	29.3
Jerusalem	10.3	Age	%	Occupation	%
Jericho	1.1	18-30	38.7	Laborers	8.8
Bethlehem	4.6	31-40	44.1	Employees	15.7
Hebron	14.0	> 40	17.1	Farmers	1.5
Jabalya	7.3	Income	%	Merchants	5.5
Gaza City	13.1	Good or More	19.2	Professional	0.9
Deir al-Balah	5.4	Not Good, not bad	51.2	Craftsman	4.0
Khan Younis	7.2			Students	11.1
Rafah	4.4	Weak	29.7	Housewives	38.9
				Not working	11.6
				Retired	1.9