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## Press Release

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Ramallah, Palestine

### Ministry of Women Affairs and the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Combat Violence Against Women and Girls

Dr. Amal Hamad, the Minister of Women Affairs signed today with the Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD), represented by its General Director Ms. Amal Khreisheh, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Combating Violence against Women and Girls in the Southern Mediterranean Region".

The MoU aims to institutionalize the rights-based approach to promoting gender equality in all sectors. It was signed in the framework of the regional project "Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in the Southern Mediterranean Region" funded by the European Union (EU).

Dr. Amal Hamad pointed out that this agreement comes as part of the Ministry's strategic partnership with the civil society organizations to promote justice and gender equality, combating violence against women and girls, as well as achieving development in agricultural, industrial, cultural, media and societal sectors.

For her part, Ms. Khreisheh presented the regional project "Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in the Southern Mediterranean Region" and underscored its goal to contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood countries, by promoting a social environment that does not tolerate VAWG and where decision-makers address it as a political priority. The project was launched on 1 January 2019 by EuroMed Feminist Initiative with a consortium of nine women's rights organizations in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. The MoU was signed to facilitate activities in the frame of this project.

**The Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development (PWWSD)**, established in 1981, is a Palestinian women's, mass, developmental, learning human rights organization that contributes to developing the feminist struggle within national, social, and developmental dimensions. The organization believes that liberating women is connected directly with ending the occupation and establishing a full Palestinian democratic sovereign civil state. PWWSD is a reference for women and all those individuals or institutions interested in women's issues. PWWSD is active all-over West Bank and Gaza Strip and an active member in several local, regional, and global networks and coalitions.

**EuroMed Feminist Initiative (EFI)** is a policy network that encompasses women's rights organizations from the two shores of the Mediterranean. It provides expertise in the area of gender equality and women's rights as inseparable from democracy and citizenship, and advocates for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.

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For further information contact Summar Rasras at: [coordinator1@pwwsd.org](mailto:coordinator1@pwwsd.org) or at 0598436166