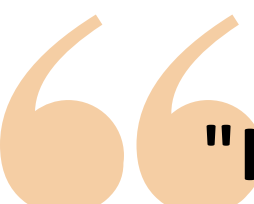


# Newsletter

March 2023

*Towards the formation of a more just society where every individual has the ability to participate effectively.*



**"It is our choices, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."**

– By Albus Dumbledore

Dear reader,

Thank you for participating in our March issue, without you this newsletter would not have been possible. Through this letter, I encourage participation from all of REFORM's units, as well as the General Director, Board of Directors and General Assembly, especially in the "In the Loop" section.

The "Internal Newsletter" does not include an extensive list of all REFORM's monthly engagements. The newsletter is rather used to highlight some of the activities to enhance transparency and internal and external communication while bringing us closer together.

## In the Loop



After years of struggles and efforts made by the feminist, civil and human rights movements demanding justice for Palestinian women in various fields and an end to gender-based violence (GBV), there are urgent questions that have become increasingly pressing.

The most prominent of these questions are: Have these efforts succeeded in achieving the desired goal? If the answer is no, then what is the reason? Does the discourse style bear a significant responsibility?

What is observed on the ground and acknowledged by feminist and human rights institutions themselves seems to be a discouraging reality. It is to the point of feeling that the status of the woman is declining, as evidenced by the fact that cases of violence against them have not stopped but increased. Additionally, women are still far from decision-making centres. Here, we conclude that the answer to the aforementioned question about the success of the struggles in bringing about the required change is "no."

So, why have the accumulated efforts over decades failed?

To read more [→](#)

# Operations Unit

*All shared activities are implemented by REFORM and linked to REFORM's Programmes and Strategic Directions for 2022-2025.*



## Programmes:

**Diversity and Cohesion Programme**

**Governance and Public Policy Programme**

## Strategic Directions:

1. Combat polarisation and fragmentation
2. Enhance the access of local and marginalised communities to justice and security
3. Promote active citizenship practices and foster youth and women engagement
4. Advance outreach and targeting capabilities of REFORM
5. Develop REFORM's organisational, administrative and financial structure



## Enhancing access to justice in Hebron, Bethlehem, Salfit, Nablus and Qalqilyah through promoting ADR and early response mechanisms” - Phase II. UNDP

*This project aims to enhance the access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised groups by enabling the institutionalisation and strengthening of ADR mechanisms within the formal and informal justice systems, promoting human rights and gender justice. Also seeks to bridge the jurisdictional gaps and enhance the employability of conflict transformation tools within ADR.*



### Media Campaign

To raise awareness about alternative dispute resolution methods, such as arbitration and mediation, REFORM utilized its social media channels.

As part of the awareness campaign, the organization published a video titled "What is the importance of arbitration in light of the decrease in legal jurisdiction and judicial suffocation?" featuring Mr. Mohamed Hadia, Executive Director of ACT and an expert in arbitration, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Watch video click here



y that arbitration is a magical solution to some of the c  
l by the political circumstances and the legal reality in F  
h the subject of jurisdiction and the issue of judicial suf

A survey was created and distributed on social media to evaluate the impact of the media campaign promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The results indicate that 81% of respondents would opt for arbitration to settle future disputes, while 74% felt that the media campaign significantly improved their understanding of the subject matter, from "good" to "very good".



## “Youth Led Action”

*Implemented by REFORM, in partnership with (PART II) Program-GIZ. Aims to empower marginalised young men and women to become agents of change within their societies and combat the shrinkage of civic spaces by creating safe platforms.*



The Executive Office for Refugees held its inaugural meeting for the establishment of the "Youth Shadow Council."

1. REFORM received 296 applications for the pioneering initiatives track and is currently in the selection stage. Out of these, only five initiatives will be selected.
2. An interview with Ajyal Radio was conducted to discuss the Shadow Youth Council.
3. The team is following REFORM's cultural activities in various locations, including Gaza, Jenin, Tulkarm, and Ramallah.

One of the sessions held at the Cultural Café in Tulkarem refugee camp involved a discussion on the novel "Palestinian Expatriation" by Walid Saif. The participants were able to form a comprehensive understanding of the societal issues faced by Palestinians under occupation, and how these intersect with the events depicted in the novel. Through this discussion, the participants were able to connect the novel's themes of expatriation to the reality experienced by Palestinian youth, highlighting the significance of fostering a culturally and socially aware Palestinian identity.



ناقش المشاركون في مقهى REFORM الثقافي - مخيم طولكرم، رواية التغريبة الفلسطينية للكاتب وليد سيف!

THE PARTICIPANTS OF REFORM CULTURAL CAFÉ IN TULKARM REFUGEE CAMP DISCUSSED THE NOVEL "THE PALESTINIAN EXPATRIATION" BY WALID SEIF



مقهى  
الثقافي  
REFORM

## “Women altering gender roles, transforming masculine attitudes and deleting GBV”

*Implemented by REFORM and funded by Creative Force through the Swedish Institute in partnership with IM Swedish Development partner. This project aims to raise awareness of masculine behaviours and their impact on increasing gender-based violence (GBV) to contribute to changing men's attitudes towards the role of women.*



In Bethlehem, a silent theatre performance titled "The Return of a Human" was conducted to address masculine behaviors and gender-based violence, utilizing the Freeze Mob technique. The performance involved the participation of 54 volunteers, including actors, camera crew, production and follow-up teams, as well as REFORM coordinators.

The silent flash mob comprised 5 scenes, each emphasizing the significance of different aspects related to gender-based violence and women's rights, including the need to enforce the Family Protection Law, the right to express emotions freely, the crucial role of women's political and social participation, and the importance of solidarity in rejecting violence.

The theatrical performance was preceded by a training course for participants on using body language and drama to express human emotions and violence. Through this course, they were trained on how to use corporal language effectively to convey their message.

During the performance, the participants aimed to capture the public's attention by incorporating musical instruments, banners with the message "I am a human being," and distributing water bottles and stickers at the performance venue.



# Unveil

**In partnership with ACP and the Women's Psychological and Social Guidance Centre with support from the Agency Extremadura for International Development Cooperation (AEXCID). Aims at building a network of young change agents to strengthen the protection of women's and youth's rights, and counter extremist values**



Ms. Carmen Kishek, a Board Member of REFORM, and Prof. Samir Al-Najdi, President of Al-Quds Open University, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of implementing collaborative programs aimed at reducing gender-based violence.



**"The University seeks to build bridges through creative partnerships with the country's organisations to support its students, promote safety, development and creativity in the Palestinian society and actively empower women to participate in decision-making positions in the future."**

توقيع مذكرة تفاهم بين مؤسسة REFORM وجامعة القدس المفتوحة  
REFORM SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AL QUDS OPEN UNIVERSITY

## Social Transformation

With the participation of more than 40 participants REFORM implemented a 6 days training on Social transformation using "Facilitating REFORM" methodology. With the objective of analysing attitudes, behaviour, contradictions and conflicts associated with gender-based violence. This was done by building the capacities of the participants with skills, knowledge tools and practical strategies to deal with this type of violence. Participants also study the social values that enhance gender-based based violence behaviours.



The participants also focused on how to use the methodology for designing interventions and activities that address social issues in their communities. The participants learned how to create a sense of social responsibility among their community members and promote inclusivity.

## Symposia

*Funded by DIAKONIA in partnership with SIDA. This project aims to enable young activists to lead an interactive dialogue with members of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the National and Central Councils, through a dialogue platform in which the perceptions and aspirations of young people are being represented. Enhancing their participation in public affairs towards decision-making bodies. This will be done through discussions and formulation of draft policies related to social and political life with policymakers.*

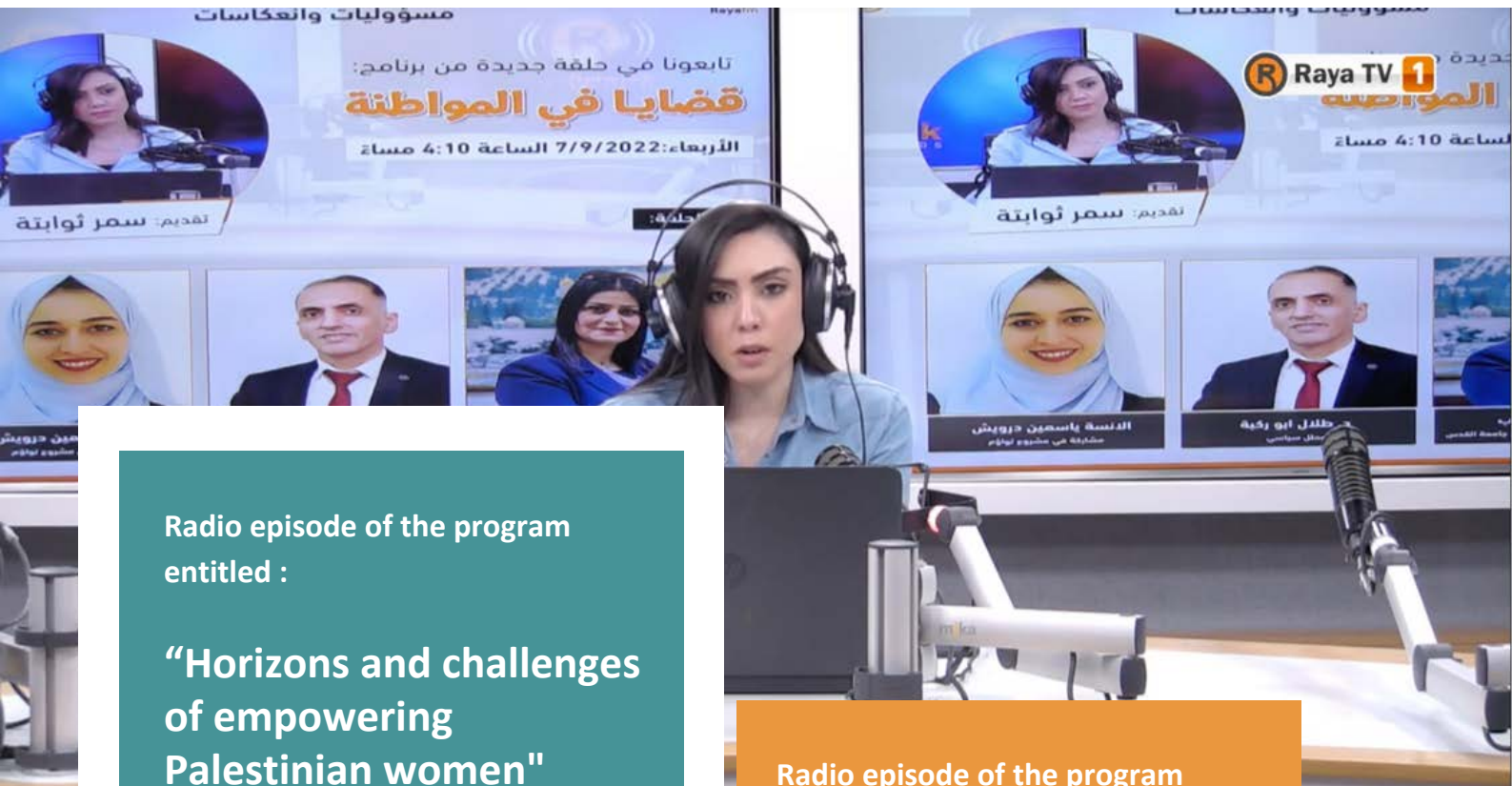


REFORM concluded a Learning Journey with the participation of thirty young women and men to train them on writing public policy papers and position papers in the city of Ramallah. The trip aimed to enable the participants to present recommendations and alternatives to decision-makers and direct and indirect stakeholders in the formulation of public decisions. Moreover, this presented the youth's perceptions, aspirations and legitimate demands that guarantee the enhancement of their participation in the management of public affairs. It was presented on the decision-making bodies in the associations of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.



## “Citizenship Issues Under a Microscope”

Broadcasted every Wednesday on Raya FM and shared live on our Facebook page. All episodes are produced by REFORM and presented by Ms. Samar Thawbteh.



Radio episode of the program entitled :

“Horizons and challenges of empowering Palestinian women”

[Listen to this episode here](#) →

Radio episode of the program entitled:

“The reality of trade union in Palestine in the light of the continued disruption of the Legislative Council”

[Listen to this episode here](#) →

Radio episode of the program entitled:

“The Importance of Arbitration in Reaching Justice”

[Listen to this episode here](#) →



# Communications & Development Unit

## Our current donors and projects:

Norwegian People's Aid  
"United in Diversity III" project

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung  
"Ambassadors" project

GIZ-PART  
"Youth Led Action" project

The Italian Agency for Development  
Cooperation ( AICS)

WE CHANGE – Participatory gender  
pathways and promotion of women's  
economic empowerment in  
Palestine" project

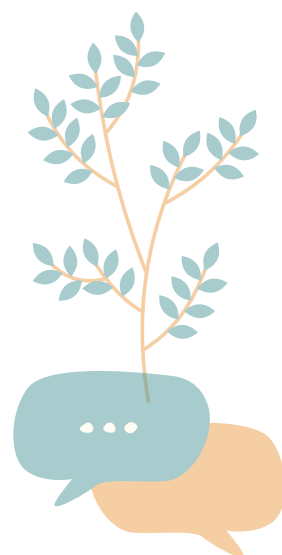
DIAKONIA  
"Symposia"

Creative Force  
"Women altering gender roles,  
controlling rigid masculine attitudes  
and deleting GBV" Project

AEXCID in partnership with ACPP  
"Unveil" Project

AGIAMONDO/Civil Peace Service  
"Cohesion and Diversity in the  
Palestinian Society" Project

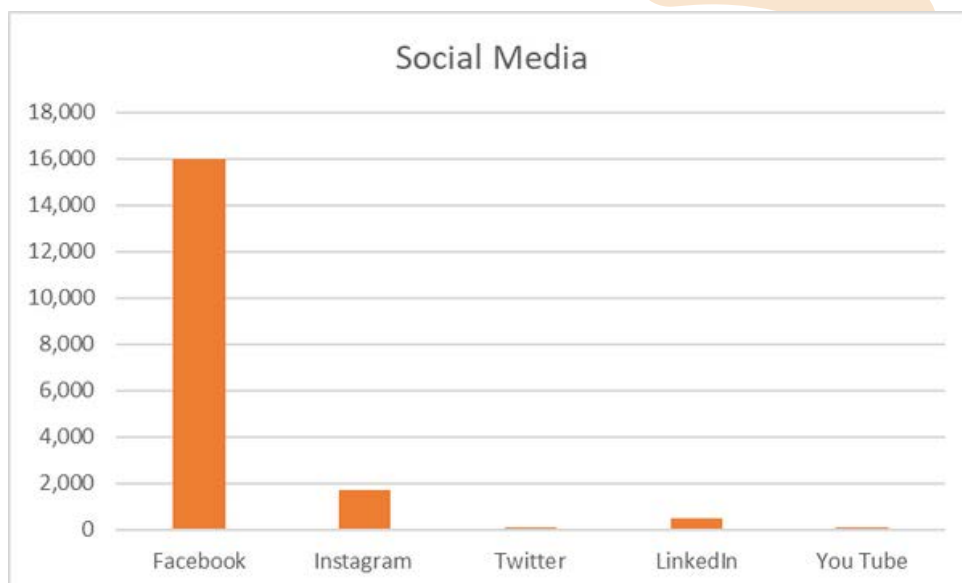
United Nations Development  
Programme  
"Enhancing access to justice in  
Hebron, Bethlehem, Salfit, Nablus  
and Qalqilyah through promoting  
ADR and early response  
mechanisms" – Phase II project



# Communications & Development Unit

- The content of REFORM 2022 Annual Report has been finalised.
- A meeting with IM, Sewdsh Development Partner was held to discuss the "Wòmen Altering Gender Roles, Controlling Rigid Masculine Attitudes, and Deleting GBV" project, were a comprehensive report on the project's progress was presented along with its impacts.
- REFORM launched a social media campaign on Gender-Based Violence through social media channels.
- Several meetings were conducted presenting REFORM's work to diverse delegations and individuals from international organisations.
- Coordination meetings with Al-Ard and Youth without Borders (YWB) for the Enabel concept note.
- Submitted the EU concept note for call entitled Support to Civil Society in Occupied Territory of Palestine.
- REFORM attended the UNFPA Implementing Partners Workshop.
- REFORM attended a partner meeting with ACPP on current and future projects.

## Social Media



## Technical support Unit



- REFORM has been working on its yearly procurement plan for all projects monthly in order to meet the requirements of all REFORM units.
- Centralised the quotations with City Inn In Ramallah and Shepherd Hotel in Bethlehem for implementation of REFORM activities. REFORM is analysing other centralised quotations, such as guest houses and hotels in Jericho.
- In the process of analysing offers a design thinking coach, a policy paper writer, and a social transformation trainer.
- Contracted a researcher for our new project UNVEIL in order to prepare a Participatory Study on structural gender gaps, and masculine and social attitudes towards gender discrimination in the governorates of Qalqilya, Salfit, Tubas and Tulkarem.
- Planning our Ramadan Iftar.



## Get to know our colleague



### Rana Burqan, Development & Communications Officer

**What inspires you the most?**

Theatre and drama.

**What is the best thing about your job?**

The challenges

**Who is your role model?**

My parents

**Tell us what you like the most about yourself?**

My self-confidence

**Favourite quote?**

"It is our choices, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." Albus Dumbledore

## Links to journal & articles

### "The new Palestinian Resistance"

Young militants are ditching old-style factionalism to fight Israel's occupation

By: Dalia Hatuqa

[Read article](#) →

### Israelis, Palestinians to meet in Egypt in bid to lower tensions before Ramadan

By: Rina Bassist

[Read more](#) →

### Let us Rally behind the TikTok and Instagram Generation

By: Jouman Quneis

[Read more](#) →

### The Civil Society warns of the consequences of the financial collapse of the Authority and demands publishing 2023 Draft Budget and opening dialogue over priority expenditures

By: AMAN transparency Palestine

[Read more](#) →



# Knowledge tools about REFORM



- [What does our logo symbolize?](#)
- REFORM's Characteristics
- REFORM's Personality
- [REFORM's Tone of Voice](#)
- [Who we are](#)
- REFORM's Strategy
- [REFORM's Theory of Change](#)

# Thank you for your participation!

Send your feedback and updates to [pviladomat@reform.ps](mailto:pviladomat@reform.ps)

We hope you enjoy the brief.

Please let us know if you have colleagues who would be interested in getting REFORM monthly newsletter.

Thanks for reading.

For REFORM team :  
Updates for the April internal newsletter must be sent latest by:  
the 28th of April