

Walk the Talk

To *Walk the Talk*, means to act consistent with one's claim.

On 8 March, this Mission, other EU Missions, organisations and millions of people around the world mark International Women's Day. But marking this important day is not enough. When you *Walk the Talk*, you need to back words with meaningful actions.

Gender equality is at the core of European values and enshrined within the EU's political and legal framework. In EU Missions, such as this, our policies clearly state that our Mandate must be implemented with a gender perspective.

In addition to our dedicated focus on gender equality in our operational activities, this month, our senior management and gender focal points will receive training on gender mainstreaming specifically designed for EU Missions, provided by the Folke Bernadotte Academy. And as of this month, we begin recording gender statistics related to how the Mission functions and delivers its Mandate.

This edition of our Newsletter focuses on some of the actions we take. We can do more. We will do more. We will Walk the Talk.

The Palestinian Civil Police was Celebrating International Women's Day

One of several Palestinian women Police Officers receiving a special token of appreciation from Brigadier Jihad Masimi, Deputy Chief of the Palestinian Civil Police on occasion of International Women's Day.



The Palestinian Police celebrated this year's International Women's Day (IWD) with a major event on 6 March 2018. This is the first time an IWD event of this scale has been organized by the Palestinian Police to honour the women serving with the Palestinian Police and to mark the increasing role of women in the Police service.

The event took place at the Palestinian Civil Police School in Jericho in the West Bank. The school is the home of the Police Cadet Training Course. A course which currently has 60 women cadets accounting for 10% of the students. This is the highest share of women cadets ever at this course and is in line with the Police Gender Strategy adopted in 2017.

The ceremony included speeches by Mr. Bo Holtse, Deputy Head of EUPOL COPPS; Ms. Ulziisuren Jamsran, Acting Special Country Representative of UN WOMEN and Brigadier Jihad Masimi, Deputy Chief of the Palestinian Civil Police.

Following the speeches, a number of women police officers received a special token of appreciation by the Deputy Chief of Police. The official programme was concluded by a demonstration of police tactics carried out by female and male police cadets.

In connection with this successful event, a workshop facilitated by EUPOL COPPS and UN WOMEN, discussed issues relating to increased participation and inclusion of women in the Palestinian Civil Police. The workshop formed part of the efforts of the Mission in unfolding the Palestinian Civil Police Gender Strategy and integrating this throughout the Palestinian Police.

The Palestinian Civil Police was celebrating International Women's Day



As part of the International Women's Day celebration, EUPOL COPPS and UN WOMEN facilitated a workshop on issues relating to increased participation and inclusion of women in the Palestinian Civil Police. The workshop formed part of the efforts of the Mission and its Gender Advisor in unfolding the Palestinian Civil Police Gender Strategy, adopted in 2017, and integrating this into the Police.



Lieutenant Colonel Wafa Al Hussain, Director of the Gender Unit of the Palestinian Civil Police (left) and Lieutenant Colonel Wafa Sharqawi from the Planning and Development Section of the Office of the Chief of Police. They played a central role in organizing the fruitful workshop, in which a number of departments of the Palestinian Civil Police participated.

The Palestinian Civil Police was celebrating International Women's Day



“We acknowledge your important contribution to an accountable Palestinian Police service. Your devotion and professionalism serves the security needs and well-being of the Palestinian people. Every day you go to work, you make a difference”, said Deputy Head of EUPOL COPPS, Bo Holtse (far right), addressing the Palestinian Police Cadets. The other speakers included Brigadier Jihad Masimi, Deputy Chief of the Palestinian Civil Police (far left) and Ms. Ulziisuren Jamsran, Acting Special Country Representative of UN WOMEN (second from left and next to EUPOL COPPS Interpreter Lubna Farhat).



Women Police Cadets from the Palestinian Civil Police School in Jericho performed drills and riot-control tactics as part of the training demonstrations following the International Women's Day ceremony.

It's all about the public's trust in judges and their verdicts



After four years as Justice Expert with EUPOL COPPS, Romanian Meda Grama knows the ins and outs of the Palestinian Judicial Institutions. With 24 years of experience, Meda joined the Mission in March 2014 from her previous position as prosecutor and trainer at the Romanian National Institute of Magistrates.

Building judges' careers

As a member of the Mission's Rule of Law Section, Meda has worked with the Palestinian High Judicial Council to strengthen the legislation used to regulate the career path of Palestinian judges. "We have been advising our counterparts to establish transparent procedures for selection and promotion of judges. This also entails the use of evaluation criteria for the judges' professional career steps. We strongly believe that such measures will contribute to increasing the public confidence in the Judiciary. Ultimately it's all about the public's trust in the judges and their verdicts", she explains.

Improving the professional level

"The excellent working relations between the Mission's staff and the staff of the Palestinian Judicial Institute has been a great personal motivation for me. During my four years in Palestine, our team has been able to foster a continuous positive development. An important element has

been the progress of training courses. We have aimed at making the Institute the main training establishment for judges, prosecutors and judicial staff. The result of our efforts is a clearly improved professional level of Palestinian judges. We have come a long way, but of course there are still steps to be taken", says Meda.

Substantial tangible and intangible output

During her tour, Meda has managed 15 training projects, conducted five study tours, five workshops and coordinated the drafting and publishing of two handbooks on Legislation and Case Law (decisions of the Supreme Court). The training programmes include 'Training for newly appointed judges', Human Rights, Gender Mainstreaming, Criminal Law and Computer Software Skills for Clerks. She has also contributed to a 'Train-the-Trainer' programme to build a pool of qualified trainers within the Palestinian Judicial Institute. Meda returns to Romania in March this year to resume her career as Public Prosecutor.

Mission manning



One in three Mission Members are women

In all interactions with our partners and counterparts in the Palestinian Security Sector and Justice System, this Mission works to promote gender equality, build capacities in the field of gender mainstreaming and integrate gender issues in policies and daily work routines.

Gender is a priority for us

The European Union works to encourage and increase women's participation in its crisis management missions around the world, such as this. As in other EU Missions, we have a Gender Adviser and Gender Focal Points. We record all gender statistics related to how the Mission functions and how it delivers its mandate. Gender is a priority for us, because it sustains our credibility, improves our operational effectiveness and increases the talent pool available for recruitment of personnel.

Women account for 28.3% in Ramallah

In our Mission Headquarters in Ramallah, gender balanced recruitment remains a constant concern. On 1 March 2018, almost one in three Mission

Members (28.3%) were women. This percentage is in line with the overall proportion of women in other EU civilian crisis management missions, where the percentage has grown from 20 to 29 from 2007 to 2016.

One important area remains to be developed

Still, one important area remains to be further developed; that is to recruit and employ more women in senior leadership positions. The High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini has repeatedly pledged to increase the percentage of women in EU's internal decision-making mechanisms and management positions to 40% by the end of her mandate in 2019. This visionary objective will remain a target for this mission as well.

The EU has recently published a study on "Women in EU missions and operations". The 37 page study (in English) is available [here](#).

Training of Mission Members in...

Understanding the human rights situation in Palestine



During the field visit to the Jordan Valley, the course participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the situation on the ground. Here the Mission Members are learning about life in Palestine's Bedouin communities.

Respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and human rights is embedded in European Union treaties. Consequently, protecting and promoting these values through their daily work, is a responsibility of all members of the EUPOL COPPS mission in Ramallah.

To provide every Mission Member with sufficient insight and confidence to perform this role, an internal Human Rights training for 15 Mission Members was organised from 5-7 March 2018. The training was delivered by the independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation Al-Haq and comprised two days of training seminars followed by a field visit to the Jordan Valley, an area of the

West Bank under full Israeli control.

The topics covered in the interactive lectures included fair trial, freedom of expression, torture and the general legislative context.

The Mission also benefited from sessions from other NGOs: AD-DAMEER (Arabic for conscience) Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, which addressed issues related to political

prisoners; and the Women's Affairs Technical Committee, which covered the conditions of women in Palestine.

The participants gained a thorough overview of the political, legal and social context in the West Bank as well as a clear understanding of how the occupation and internal division impacts all aspects of the lives of the Palestinian people.

Documenting violations of the rights of the Palestinian people

Al-Haq is based in Ramallah, the West Bank. The NGO was established in 1979 to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the organisation has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Al-Haq documents violations of the individual and collective rights of Palestinians in the OPT, irrespective of the identity of the perpetrator, and seeks to end such breaches by way of advocacy before national and international mechanisms and by holding the violators accountable.

See more [here](#).