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ANNUAL REPORT
NEVA

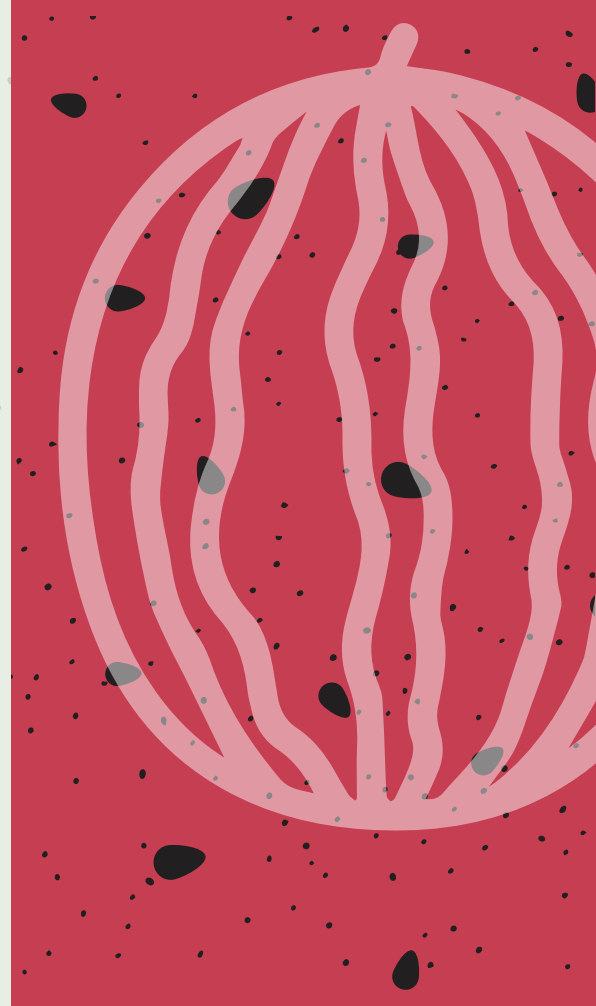


2022

INITIATIVE

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A letter from PPC/OPIC youth group

Dear readers,

Albert Einstein once said that “in the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity”.

The Palestinian socio-political context went through a serious crisis at the beginning of 2021; characterized mainly by the lack of elections, major crackdown on civil rights and freedoms, internal fragmentation and partisan conflicts, in addition to the political instability in Israel, settlements expansion, the annexation threats, and the tension in Jerusalem. It was difficult to perceive any indication of a political breakthrough, on any level, until the PA announced the dates for presidential and legislative/parliamentary elections.

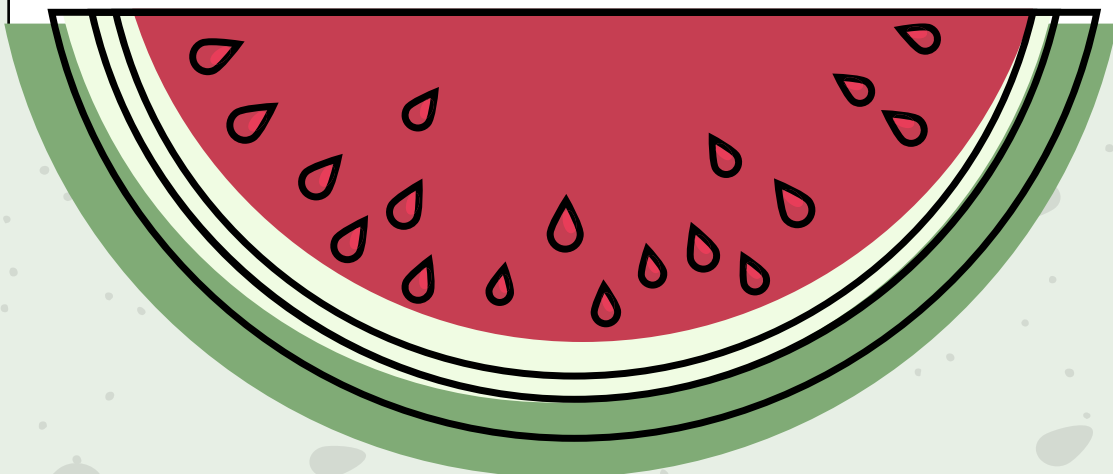
The elections presented us with a valuable opportunity to contribute to the political life in the country, maybe for the first time in 17 long years. For a good two months, we took part in structured debates and smaller talks about elections; this was the main entertainment for the majority of Palestinians. We had endless discussions on whether it is actually going to happen or not, whether Israel is going to allow elections in Jerusalem, or if ideas like “joint-lists” would actually work, and many other hot issues. One problem, though; most of the debates about elections took place in major cities! We wanted to incorporate and bring in youthful voices from outlying regions of Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank. We concentrated our efforts in Area «C,» which includes refugee camps, villages, small towns, Bedouin communities, and places threatened by settlement growth and settlers’ violence. We intended to contribute to the public debate on elections, democracy, and the rule of law in addition to the awareness-raising events and trips we arranged. We planned a series of radio discussions and social media posts, as well as public online brainstorming workshops and briefing sessions.

Although the elections were “postponed” due to Israel’s refusal to allow them in Jerusalem, the progress we made during 2021 can’t be undone. We are better prepared to create and/or seize new opportunities next year, and we are keeping the fight for peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

Thank you for your help and support!

Sincerely,

PPC/OPIC Youth Group



- INTRODUCTION:

We organized a total of 19 activity under YEP project in 2021, targeting a total of 540 Palestinian youth and women leaders. This number includes 264 females who constituted %49 of the project's target group. Out of the 540 participants, we reached 35 unique participants, who constitute the YEP core group.

Due to the spread of COVID 19 and the restrictions on movement and ability to assemble, we relied more on online means and on activities organized in open spaces. Also, the first half of the year witnessed a series of political shifts that caused tension and violence; we had to double our efforts to cope with the challenges imposed then. Since online meetings lack human interaction and usually participants lose attention, we increased the number of online activities, and relied more on the participatory approach to keep participants engaged and to speed up progress. This approach helped increase the participants' confidence and enhance their self-esteem, as well as their sense of ownership and purpose. Each participant had the opportunity to speak their mind, contribute to brainstorming activities that usually included planning for future activities and evaluation of previous actions.

Although using online means to communicate may have slowed progress towards certain indicators, but we learned a lot from this challenge. Currently, we are gradually digitalizing various aspects of our operations. Most of the surveys/ feedback forms, as well as attendance sheets are done online, and we started relying more on social media and on radio talks to convene, or to send messages to the public regarding human rights, elections, democracy and peace.



1. The Land Day Initiative:

Usually, this day is commemorated with demonstrations, national/public activities, initiatives, including planting olive trees...etc. The YEP core group planned and organized a field activity to plant trees in Khuza'a area . They also invited senior leaders from different factions to participate in the activity, which provided them with more access to decision making levels, including to municipal leaders. ● [Read More](#)

2. Stay Educated Initiative:

Where young leaders lunched an awareness raising initiative to encourage young Palestinians to read more and to stay up-to-date regarding various socio-political, as well as economic and security issues. ● [Read More](#)

3. Advocacy visit to Khuza'a municipality in Gaza.

Young participants planned, coordinated and led an advocacy visit to the Khuza'a municipality to meet with the mayor and other municipal leaders and employees. The group of young leaders were led by Ms. Arij Abu Amer and Mr. Oday Abu Rjele, who are originally from that area.

4. Writing 3 articles.

Young leaders of the YEP volunteered to write about their own attitude towards the current socio-political and economic situation. These articles are included in the upcoming YEP newsletter that we are publishing towards mid-February 2022. It is important to note here, that the contents of the newsletter itself is mostly developed and/or collected by the YEP core group. [1- Reconciliation article](#)

[2- Patriarchy and its impact on the Palestinian political system article:](#) [3- The concerted efforts of official and civil institutions in serving the youth article:](#)



Youth debate in Jericho, 2021

Five capacity building seminars

For a total of (187) young participants from Gaza and the West Bank, including (100) female participants. These seminars increased the participants' knowledge on issues related to democracy, human rights, women rights, peace and reconciliation. We provided the participants with lectures and presentations on their status and role in socio-political processes, and their potential role in influencing the decision-making processes on local and national levels. Capacity building seminars laid the foundations for constructive communications and coordination among the young leaders; and helped them know more about each other's and about their potential contribution to the project goals.

Two advanced leadership courses

That targeted the same focus group from the West Bank and Gaza. These courses provided more advanced data for the participants, and allowed the space for deeper understanding of the main challenges to youth and women participation in socio-political processes. Through a series of advanced training workshops and structured dialogues sessions with experts and professionals, the courses strengthened the communications and cooperation between members of the YEP core group. They provided the environment for planning and evaluation of various initiatives led by the young leaders. With the help of the PPC team, the young leaders discussed approaches, tools, timing, topics and other details related to their advocacy work, particularly during the elections period.



Salamtak fe beitak youth initiative April, 2020 Gaza

Educational Tour in March, 2



Four meetings with political leaders and opinion shapers

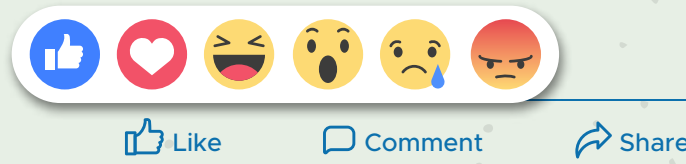
For a group of (88) young and women leaders. These meetings provided the participants with the opportunity to communicate directly with decision makers and senior opinion shapers. This type of meetings helped the young participants to practice accountability, raise their voice and influence the decision-making processes, as well as the Palestinian public discourse. Meetings on this level provided the opportunity for young participants to gain more knowledge and to better understand the various political, cultural and religious sensitivities surrounding the socio-political spheres in Palestine. ● [Read More](#)

Two follow-up meetings

In addition to 4 online meetings, for a total of (20) members of the YEP focus group to monitor and assess the progress of different activities organized by the project team and advocacy activities led by members of the core group. These meetings provided the needed space to plan future activities, revisit certain components of initiatives/planned actions to make sure they are still relevant or effective and to collect, discuss data on certain issues/actions. For example, follow up meetings were particularly important for developing and collecting the materials of the upcoming newsletter, including articles, short videos, wording/texts and other details.

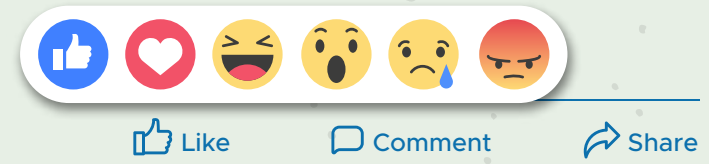


Capacity Building Seminar-Youth debates
Gaza august 2020



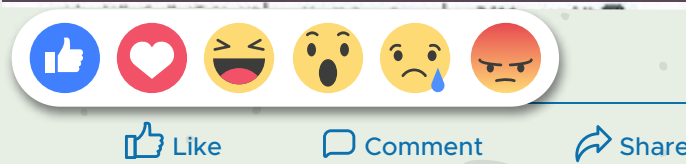
A new radio episode organized by the Palestinian Peace Coalition to talk about the youth initiative quot Stay educated quot on importance of this initiative to create an educated youth generation aware of social and political issues. The meeting hosted by the youth activist Latifa Shatat, and the coordinator of the Palestinian Peace Coalition, Salim Al-Hindi.

[Click to watch the radio interview](#)



A new radio episode organized by the Palestinian Peace Coalition on youth and elections. The meeting will be hosted by the activist Areej Al-Ashkar, and the activist Salim Al-Agha.

[Click to watch the radio interview](#)



A special radio interview organized by the Palestinian Peace Coalition, entitled «Elections and Youth». The meeting will be hosted by the activist Somaya Al-Zard, the activist Foad Banat, and the project manager in the Peace Alliance, Ayed Atmawy.

[Click to watch the radio interview](#)



Land Day youth initiative Gaza, 2021

CONTACT US



Palestinian Peace Coalition



www.ppc.org.ps



[PalestinianPeaceCoalitionGenevaInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/PalestinianPeaceCoalitionGenevaInitiative)



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