

"Women Forward Forum" Project Improvement

Overall Objective:

The Project aims to provide support to divorced women, particularly the young, and integrate them into the community.

Specific Objectives:

1. Develop the 'Women Forward Forum' to implement its activities within the framework of the 'Women to Women Program'
2. Enhance self-confidence and self-esteem of divorced women.
3. Raise the legal awareness of divorced women and empower them to protect their rights.
4. Defend divorced women's rights before national courts and resolve their legal problems through the counselling unit at the center.
5. Integrate divorced women into the community to improve their living conditions.
6. Raise awareness and educational and professional skills of divorced women in cooperation with local NGOs to assist them in creating jobs to contribute in poverty alleviation.
7. Contribute in raising people's awareness of women's rights.

Project Justification:-

"Women Forward Forum" is an unprecedented theme in Gaza Strip. Since the first phase of the project, important achievements were made which created social mobility among formal and local NGOs (organizations). The project also highlighted the needs of oppressed divorced women.

The need to constitute the "Women Forward Forum" emerge as a result of the findings of studies conducted by the Center and other local women's organizations. These findings revealed that there was an increase in the number of divorce cases as a result of the economical and political conditions of the Palestinian society .These

conditions lead to the increase of the poverty rate which consequently lead to the increase of the pressure on the families. All the previous problems helped in the increase of the divorce cases and the dispersed families. In addition to that there are several social and psychological problems as results of divorce:

1 – Social isolation of divorced women because of the prevailing traditional culture.

2 – Psychological problems such as depression and the feeling of neglect and deprivation of divorced women.

3 – Extreme poverty of divorced women, since a lot of them are not educated and don't have any skills to work.

4 – Ignorance of their legal rights.

5 – Having kids along with the previous problems.

The Outcomes of first phase of the project:

Started on 1-9-2009 until 30-12-2009 (4 months).

Pillars of the project:

First pillar:

Establishing the "Women Forward Forum" By enrolling 30 divorced women.

Second pillar:

Educate the divorced women on their legal and civil rights and how to defend these rights.

Third pillar:

Conduct a research study to identify the needs of divorced women. The findings of these results were discussed in a work shop attended by the interested NGOs.

Development phase of the project:

The duration: 8 months, starting on 1-12-2009 until 30-7-2010

The activities of the development phase depend on the results of the research titled " The Reality and Needs of Divorced Women" as follows:

First pillar: get 150 divorced women enrolled in the "women forward forum"

Second pillar: held educational legal meetings to the women who enrolled in the forum.

Third pillar: held social and psychological meetings for the forum members.

Fourth pillar: cooperating with local NGOs to fulfill the women's needs, after defining these needs.

Forth pillar: cooperating with official institutions and the justice system to obtain legal benefits for the divorced women.

Expected outcomes of the development phase of the project:

1- Devoting the "Women Forward Forum" as a permanent program.

2- 150 women have been educated and are ready to engage in society.

3- Establish a connection between local women's organizations and Palestinian Social institutions to provide divorced women with the help they need.

4- Women Forward Forum has 3000 divorced women enrolled.

5- 150 women who were educated to integrate into the community.

6- Women Forward Forum is gaining legal benefits for divorced women in the field of child custody.

7- Women Forward Forum will be able to initiate a new long-term programs and continue working with women.

Center For Women's Legal Research & consulting

Center for women's legal researches and consulting (CWLRC) is an independent non-profit center established in Gaza the year 2005 upon the initiative of group of Palestinian lawyers and civil society activists who believe in the importance of enhancing women's social and legal rights through providing legal consultation, training and research to achieve equality, justice and thereafter democracy in the Palestinian society .CWLRC was registered in the Ministry of National Economy, number 563141852, on May 10th, 2006.