

Workshop

Conflict transformation and peace building in Israel and Palestine: the gender dimensions

*Brussels, 17-18 March 2010
European Commission
Nyerere seminar room (DG DEV)
rue de la Science 15, 1040 Brussels*

Agenda

Conflict has been persistent in the Middle East, in spite of many efforts to transform and resolve it. The Israeli/Palestinian conflict actually involves several types of conflicts within and across the Israeli and Palestinian societies, and efforts at peace-making and peace-building need to discern the roots, stages and types of conflicts at stake to be able to move towards lasting and just peace.

Gender dimensions of conflicts have been addressed in research and practice, but remain insufficiently explored on issues such as tackling conflicting narratives, developing resilience in a contest of violence, dealing with justice, breaking the vicious cycle of conflict, and integrating the interests of future generations. The workshop intends to engage with such dimensions and to provide a forum for dialogue between researchers and practitioners from Israel, Palestine and Europe.

The sessions will be introduced by two or three keynote speakers and all participants will then engage in debate.

17 March 2010

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8:45 Arrival at workshop venue and registration

9:00-9:30 **Welcome** by Anneli Pauli, Deputy Director General DG Research, European Commission, and **introduction** to the workshop.

9:30-11:00 Session 1

Narrative of conflicts: history, memory, media and myths

Keynotes: Sarai Aharoni, Amal Kreisheh, Elise Féron
Debate

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:00 Session 2

Conflict experiences: the many faces of violence and of resilience

Keynotes: Hania Bitar, Rouchama Marton, Carol Hagemann-White
Debate

13:00-14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00-15:30 Session 3

Peace and justice: hand-in-hand or in tension?

Keynotes: Karin Aggestam, Molly Malekar, Maysa Zorob
Debate

15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00-17:30 Session 4

Mediation, reconciliation and breaking the vicious cycle: generating a future of peace

Keynotes: Naomi Chazan, Colette Harris, Diana Copper
Debate

17:30-18:30 Concluding session

Women, peace and security: the Middle East experience

(also with reference to the UN Security Council Resolution 1325

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/res1325.pdf>)

Keynotes: Shulamit Aloni, Luisa Morgantini, Joanne Sandler
Debate

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9:30-11:30 - Round Table:

**Peace and security in the Middle East:
What role for a gender-sensitive approach to conflict transformation?
Research and Policy Perspectives**

Chair:

Jean-Michel Baer, Director Science, Economy and Society, DG Research, European Commission

Panellists (intervention of max 10 minutes each –*some panellists pending final confirmation*):

MEP Nicole Kill-Nielssen, *MEP Annemie Neyts*, *MEP Helmut Scholz*; *David Harmon* (European Commission, Cab Geoghegan-Quinn), *Gwenda Jeffreys-Jones* (European Commission, DG External Relations), *Mary Curtin*, US Mission to the EU, *Karin Aggestam* (Lund University); *Naomi Chazan* (President of the New Israel Fund); *Amal Kreisheh* (Director of the Palestinian Working Women Society in Development)

Debate

Invited speakers for the workshop of 17 March and (a selection) for debate at the Round Table of 18 March

From Israel:

Shulamit Aloni, former Minister of Education and Culture, founder and first president of the Meretz Party, women's and human rights activist, Israel Prize for Human Rights (2000)

Naomi Chazan, Professor of Political Science, former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset (Meretz Party), President of the New Israel Fund

Galia Golan-Gild Professor of Political Science (IDC), former spokesperson of Peace Now (only 18 March)

Rouchama Marton, Founder and President, Physicians for Human Rights Israel

Sarai Aharoni, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, former Coordinator of the program for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 at Isha l'Isha

Molly Malekar, former Director Bat Shalom of the Jerusalem Link

From Palestine:

Amal Kreisheh, Director of the Palestinian Working Women Society in Development

Zahira Kamal, former Minister of Women's Affairs of the Palestinian Authority (only 18 March)

Hania Bitar, Director general of the Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation (PYALARA)

Maysa Zorob, Representative of Al-Haq in Brussels

Note: **Hanan Ashrawi**, Former Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Member of the PLC, General Secretary Miftah cancelled due to a meeting with EU representatives in the Middle East on same dates; **Maha Abu-Davyeh**, Director of WCLAC, Women'Center for Legal Aid and Counseling cancelled due to an accident.

European researchers involved in projects funded by DG Research:

Karin Aggestam, *Lund University, project Just and Durable Peace*, <http://www.lu.se/just-and-durablepeace-by-piece>

Brigitte Beauzamy, *Marie Curie Fellow, Transpeace project*

Elise Féron, *University of Lille and Kent University in Brussels, projects PEACE-COM and INFOCON*, <http://www.infocon-project.org>

Carol Hagemann-White, *University of Osnabruck, project CAHRV*, <http://www.cahrv.uni-osnabrueck.de>

Colette Harris, *Overseas Development Group, project MICROCON*; http://www.microconflict.eu/projects/gender_aspects.html

Stéphanie Latte Abdallah, *University of Aix-en Provence, project RAMSES*, <http://ramses2.mmsh.univ-aix.fr>

Diana Copper, *LUISS Rome, project SHUR*, <http://www.luiss.it/shur>

Other confirmed participants:

Adel Ateh, *General Delegation of Palestine to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg*

Mary Curtin, *US Mission to the EU*

Birgit Daiber, *Lina Kaufmann and Helge Striethorst, Rosa Luxembourg Foundation (co-organisers of the event 'Women Speak Out', after workshop)*

Luisa Morgantini, *Former EP Vice-President*

Joanne Sandler, *Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and Christina Shaheen (UNIFEM)*

Ruba Salih and **Sophie Richter Devroe**, *Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter*

Simone Süsskind, *Member of the International Women's Commission - IWC - for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace, Brussels (co-organiser of the event and workshop)*

Patrizia Violi, *University of Bologna and Women Research Centre*

European Commission:

Simona Ardovino, *DG Research*

Jean Michel Baer, *DG Research*

Lora Borissova, *DG External Relations*

Victoria Correa, *DG Development*

Patrik Costello, *DG External Relations*

Philippe Galiay, *DG Research*

David Harmon, *Cab of Research and Innovation Commissioner M.Geoghegan-Quinn*

Nadim Karkutli, *DG External Relations*

Gwenda Jeffreys-Jones, *DG External Relations*

Angela Liberatore, *DG Research (organiser of the workshop)*

Stavroula Ntotsika, *DG ECHO*

Emanuele Sanguineti, *DG Research*

Virginia Vitorino, *DG Research*

Pēteris Zilgalvis, *DG Research*

European Parliament:

MEP Nicole Kill-Nielsen

MEP Annemie Neyts

MEP Helmut Scholz

Stefan Krauss

Laurijn van Steenberg

Council of the EU:

TBC