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## Week 10: Women in Peacebuilding

WEEK  
**10**

MAR. 5  
TO  
MAR. 11

### *WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING*

*"When we are protected, when we are respected, when we are able to thrive and given the same opportunities as our male counterparts, when we are given space to lead and rise – our nation will rise."*

- Linda Sarsour

*"We cannot rely upon the silenced to tell us they are suffering."*

- Dr. Hanan Ashrawi

*"No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men. There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women."*

- Mala Yousafzai



<http://kuminow.com/WomeninPeacebuilding>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On Tuesday we had the pleasure of hearing **Ranan Issa**, Gender Justice Program Manager of the **ELCJHL** as part of our **Palestinian Innovators** series. The replay of the session is now available [on YouTube](#) and [on our website](#). The website includes bios of the participants and all of the links shared during the gathering, including to [her slides](#).

We would love it if you could share the session with your community. You could use wording such as:

*We continue to learn from the incredible individuals in the Kumi Now Palestinian Innovators series. This week we learned how churches, and particularly the ELCJHL, are leading the empowerment of women in Palestine. Learn more from Ranan Issa, Gender Justice Program Manager of the ELCJHL, in the latest Kumi Now gathering: <https://youtu.be/oYVCDq07QPw>*

## Next Online Gathering



### March 15: Palestinian Innovators #4

Remember! We're doing webinars on the **first** and **third** Tuesday of each month. That means **NO** webinar this Tuesday, but we'll be back the following Tuesday, March 15.

We have a very interesting guest lined up for March 15th. We're waiting for some confirmation for the date to work, so we won't drop a name quite yet, but trust us on this one!

**Time:** Tuesday, March 15, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+2) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11am
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm
- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 6pm
- Manila: 12am
- Sydney: 3am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 5am (+1 Day)

**Zoom Meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (The meetings require a simple registration now, but it only takes a second.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

# TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2022 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Will you help #BreakTheBias?



March 8th is [International Women's Day](#). Take a look at the website and consider what you can do to forge a gender equal world. One way to help is to participate in our Kumi Action, which helps share the knowledge and inspiration of seven Palestinian world. So let's move on to information on to this week's entry:

## This Week's Entry

**Please note:** To match the dates in the book, we will now be posting a new entry each Friday, and this newsletter should go out each Friday or Saturday.

**Sharing and publicizing:** The graphics in this newsletter are designed to be the perfect size and shape to share to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. So each week you can help the cause simply by sharing these images online. It's one more option you have to help.

### **Kumi Week #10: Women in Peacebuilding**

Week 10 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). In other weeks of the year we document the hardships that women have had to bear due to the occupation. However, as the world celebrates International Women's Day on March 8, we want to highlight the roles that women play in nonviolent resistance and the growing opportunities available to them in spite of the occupation. Here's what you need to know and what you can do so that together we can *rise up*.

Please read the essay on this issue and the story of the journalist Esraa Areer. Last year we were joined by **Randa Siniora**, general director of the **Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)**. You can see her talk and Q and A starting at the [16 minute mark of the webinar](#). And here are a few more facts for you:

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## **WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING**

### **Just the facts...**

*Worldwide, the proportion of peace agreements with gender equality provisions increased from 14 to 22% between 1995 and 2019.*

*From 1992 to 2019, women averaged 13% of negotiators, 6 percent of mediators, and 6 percent of signatories in major peace processes.*

*7 out of every 10 peace processes did not include women mediators or women signatories.*

*Women's participation increases by 35 percent the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years.*

*Peace agreements are 64 percent less likely to fail when civil society representatives participate.*

*In Israel and Palestine, only a handful of women have served as official negotiators and technical advisors in the last thirty years, and even fewer have had leading roles in negotiations.*

*When women have participated in formal Israel/Palestine negotiations, they have been lauded as being critical to resolving impasses between parties.*

*Sources: UN Women, CFR*

**<http://kuminow.com/WomeninPeacebuilding>**

### **Understanding Women in Peacebuilding: Just the Facts...**

- Worldwide, the proportion of peace agreements with gender equality provisions increased from 14 to 22 per cent between 1995 and 2019.
- From 1992 to 2019, women averaged 13 percent of negotiators, 6 percent of mediators, and 6 percent of signatories in major peace processes.
- 7 out of every 10 peace processes did not include women mediators or women signatories.
- Women's participation increases by 35 percent the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years.
- Peace agreements are 64 percent less likely to fail when civil society representatives participate.
- As 40 peace processes since the end of the Cold War show, when women were able to exercise a strong influence on the negotiation process, there was a much higher chance that an agreement would be reached.
- In cases of strong influence of women an agreement was almost always reached.
- In Israel and Palestine, only a handful of women have served as official negotiators and technical advisors in the last thirty years, and even fewer have had leading roles in negotiations.

- When women have participated in formal negotiations, they have been lauded as being critical to resolving impasses between parties.

These facts are drawn from the following reports and sources:

- [“Facts and Figures: Peace and Security”](#) from **UN Women**
- [“Fact Sheet: The Global Study on 1325: Key Messages, Findings, and Recommendations”](#) from **UN Women**
- [“Israel and the Palestinian Territories Case Study: Current Peace Effort”](#) from **Council on Foreign Relations**

## Learning More

To learn more, you should watch:

- The United Nations' 3-minute video [“The Importance of Women in Peace Processes”](#)
- Manal Omar's *“Women at the negotiating table - the missing piece in peacebuilding”* at TEDxSanDiego [on YouTube](#).
- Madeleine Reese's [“Gender, War and Peace”](#) at TEDxLausanne.

To go deeper, we have an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry and we're developing a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week. We're now releasing a video each week focusing on the Kumi Action! Check out the one below on [YouTube](#).

## Kumi Action



We have written short profiles of seven strong Palestinian women and we are sharing them with you via the newsletter and on the website. Take these profiles and post them, one per day, on social media, or print them out and post them somewhere others can see them.

Include a link to this page of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #IWD2022, #BreakTheBias, #PalestinianWomen, #KumiNow, and #Kumi10.

Here is today's, but please head to the website to find [the rest](#), or share and retweet them from our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts:



“I refuse to be either an enemy or a victim. The helplessness that comes from feeling yourself to be a victim is paralysing but it was not in the nature of the women I grew up with; they were always fighting, adapting and progressing.”



International Women's Day

#IWD2022

#BreakTheBias

#PalestinianWomen

**Huda Abuarqoub**  
Director of the Alliance for  
Middle East Peace (ALLMEP)

<http://kuminow/WomenInPeacebuilding>

## You Should Know

*One or two people, companies, or organizations you should know, and how you can follow them online.*

**Women's Centre for Legal Aid and  
Counselling**

The Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling



**(WCLAC)** has been a supportive Kumi Now partner from the beginning, and the work they do is very impressive.

WCLAC is an independent Palestinian non-profit and non-governmental organization established by a small group of women in 1991. By forging a feminist vision based on the principles of gender equality and social justice, WCLAC plays a prominent role in addressing gender-based violence in Palestinian society's public and private spheres.

As a leading defender of women's rights in Palestine, WCLAC is proud of its uncompromising commitment to provide social and legal counselling and emergency shelter in an environment where human rights abuses are rampant and women's issues are regularly overlooked. Furthermore, it proposes bills and law amendments, works on policy developments, and monitors and documents violations of human rights as a consequence of the conflict.

You can find WCLAC on [their website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

## Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up in March so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:



### March 12 to 18: Week 11 - Olive Trees

[Read the full entry online.](#)

This week we will look at how Palestinians in the occupied territory face rampant destruction of their olive trees and livelihoods. As more trees are uprooted and burned by settlers and Israeli occupation forces, brave farmers work to replant and undo the damage. However, their resources are stretched thin and livelihoods and traditions are at stake.

For our Kumi Action we will continue our support of Palestinian olive tree planting initiatives and spread information about the recent widespread destruction of olive trees.

### March 19 to 25: Week 12 - Natural Resources



[Read the full entry online.](#)

This week, as the United Nations and the world observe World Water Day on March 22, we will focus on environmental exploitation. The West Bank is rich in natural resources. However, due to Israel's occupation and control over the occupied Palestinian territory, access to and use of Palestinians' natural resources is obstructed. Rampant throughout the occupied territory, this practice is at its worst around the Dead Sea, where Israel exploits the land for its water and minerals.

For the Kumi Action we will spread information about AHAVA's illegal exploitation of Dead Sea resources.



## March 26 to April 1: Week 13 - Conditions in Gaza

[Read the full entry online.](#)

On March 30 Palestinians celebrate Land Day, a commemoration of the first Palestinian general strike, in 1976, against land confiscation in Israel. On the same date in 2018, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip launched the Great March of Return to protest the blockade of Gaza and demand the right to return to their lands. This week, the Kumi Now community stands in solidarity with the citizens of Gaza as we focus on the blockade.

For our Kumi Action we will "check in" to Gaza on social media and share videos and other resources on Gaza with others.

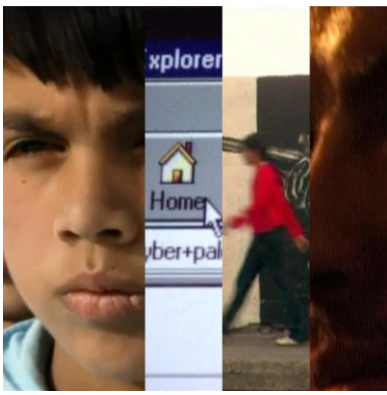
## You Should Watch or Read

*Recent and not-so-recent films, books, music, and other arts related to Palestine, as well as news about festivals and other events*

### PFP Film of the Week: 4 Shorts

The **Palestine Film Institute's** PFP Film of the Week series is back! They have 4 shorts showing this week: "Cyber Palestine" (1999), "A Boy, a Wall, and a Donkey" (2008), "Make a Wish" (2005), and "Diary of a Male Whore" (2001). I believe you have through until Wednesday to watch them for free [on their website](#).





## What's Next

You'll receive another newsletter next Saturday, focused on our next issue, [Olive Trees](#), then we'll see you at our next Online Gathering on the 15th. As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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