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Week 43: Women in Conflict



Image from the [U.S. Mission to the OSCE](#).

Dear Kumi Now supporter,

On October 31, 2000, the **United Nations Security Council** unanimously adopted **Resolution 1325** on women, peace, and security. It acknowledged the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls. It calls for the adoption of a gender perspective to consider the special needs of women and girls during conflict, repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Resolution 1325 was the first resolution from the Security Council that required parties in a conflict to prevent violations of women's rights, support their participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction, and protect women and girls from wartime sexual violence. It was also the first United Nations Security Council resolution to specifically mention the impact of conflict on women.

There is a twisted irony at the intersection of war and gender: war is almost always declared and fought by men. But it is women and children that suffer much of the violence. The end of war is no different: men negotiate treaties, while the voices, needs, and expertise of women are ignored. In reality, however, women, and by extension children, bear unbelievable levels of violence and harm, especially in refugee camps, military occupations, and the ongoing crisis in Gaza.

You can read more about the impact of Resolution 1325 [here](#), and read the full text [here](#). And join us for our next Kumi Now Online Gathering as we look at the effects of conflict on women in Palestine:

Next Online Gathering



October 25: Week 43 - Women in Conflict

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

Our guest will be **Dr. Lamis Abu-Nahleh**, who was a founder of the Birzeit University women's studies program

Time: Tuesday, October 25, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+3) 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: 5pm
- Manila: 11pm
- Sydney: 1am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 3am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (There might be a quick registration form, and please set an alarm for yourself for Tuesday.)

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](#).

This Week's Entry

Kumi Week #43: Women in Conflict

Week 43 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). While the Israeli occupation has inflicted suffering on all Palestinians, "Palestinian women in particular have been forced to endure both direct and indirect gendered violence emanating from the occupation, which has affected women in distinct and specific ways." That's the conclusion of [a joint 2018 report](#). This gendered violence is also hardly unique to Palestine. The U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [outlines](#) how military conflicts exacerbate violence towards women and how it continues long after the armed conflicts are over.

These acts of violence, direct and indirect, are carried out by Israeli forces or by settlers, with Israeli forces often standing by and failing to intervene. Furthermore, conflict makes gender-based violence more acceptable. Palestinian women, denied freedom of

movement, particularly in refugee camps, are subject to domestic violence they cannot escape.

Please read the essay on this issue and the testimonies to MIFTAH. And here are some facts for you:

Understanding Women in Conflict. Just the facts...

- 33% of Palestinian women in refugee camps have directly experienced physical assault by Israeli Occupation Forces.
- 9% have been exposed to threats of being attacked by policing dogs during Israeli night raids on their homes.
- 37% have been detained or interrogated.
- 38% of them or members of their households have experienced verbal abuse during Israeli army raids, at checkpoints or while visiting religious places.
- Many have been forced to work in substandard conditions after the family breadwinner has been arrested or killed.
- Nearly a quarter live in shelters or with extended family.
- 22% live in unhealthy conditions.
- Over 20% have been exposed to beatings or tear gas at checkpoints while they were pregnant.
- 5% of women or their children have been forced to drop out of school due to the occupation.
- 64% have been unable to visit religious or recreational sites due to restrictions on their movement.

Source

These facts are taken from the **MIFTAH** data in "[Palestinian Women: The Disproportionate Impact of Israeli Occupation](#)" from **MIFTAH, PWWSD, WCLAC, TAM, and Karama**.

Learning More

We suggest you also read the following reports:

- "[Punitive Measures: the Gendered impact on Palestinian Women](#)" from **WCLAC**
- "[Women's Right are Human Rights](#)" from the **U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

To go deeper, we will be developing an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week's entry as well as 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:

Kumi Action



Photo by Montecruz Foto used under [CC license](#).

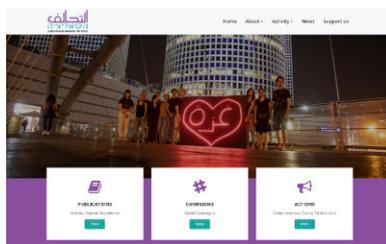
Take action and start a vigil on October 31! Follow this [link](#) to learn more about the general guidelines to start a Women in Black vigil. Coordinate with your local Kumi Community to publicize when and where your vigil will be. Take a picture of your vigil and share it on social media. Schedule your vigil so that you can stop and pray at 13:25 PM (1:25 PM) for one minute according to your timezone in honor of UNSC Resolution 1325.

If you are unable to join or host a vigil you can call a women's organization in your area and tell them about the resolution and ask them to speak about Palestinian women this week in honor of UNSC Resolution 1325. If they ask for ideas or more information you can suggest that they publish the story from the Kumi action.

Post photos or videos from your vigil, or the messages you sent, on social media, tagging the women's organizations you contacted. Include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #KumiNow and #Kumi43.

You Should Know

One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.



Coalition of Women for Peace

The **Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP)** is a feminist organization active in the struggle to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine, for the liberation of the Palestinian people from oppression, for the creation of a society based on principles of justice and equality, and for securing life and dignity for all the inhabitants of Israel/Palestine.

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



MIFTAH: The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy

MIFTAH: The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy was established in Jerusalem in December 1998, MIFTAH seeks to promote the principles of democracy and good governance within various components of Palestinian society; it further seeks to engage local and international public opinion and official circles on the Palestinian cause. To that end, MIFTAH adopts the mechanisms of an active and in-depth dialogue, the free flow of information and ideas, as well as local and international networking.

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



Women in Black

Women in Black (WiB) is a worldwide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence. As women experiencing these things in different ways in different regions of the world, we support each other's movements. An important focus is challenging the militarist policies of our own governments. We are not an organization, but a means of communicating and a formula for action. Women in Black groups do not have a constitution or a manifesto, but the feminist perspective is clear from our actions and words.

You can find Women in Black on their [website](#) and might be able to find your local chapter on Twitter or Facebook or other social networking sites.



Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling

The **Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (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.

The organization aims to address the causes and consequences of gender-based violence within the Palestinian community as well as gender specific effects of the prolonged military occupation. These issues are interconnected and are of equal importance. For nearly three decades, the Centre's work has bridged the need to address discrimination and violence against women within Palestinian society, and the need to support the national struggle for freedom and independence from Israeli occupation.

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 November so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

KUMI NOW ONLINE: NOVEMBER, 2022

Week 44	Week 45	Week 46	Week 47	Week 48
				
November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
<i>Anti-Muslim and Anti-Islamic Discrimination</i>	<i>Antisemitism</i>	<i>Children's Rights</i>	<i>Gender-Based Violence</i>	<i>The Kairos Document</i>

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

Each week below will have an online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom link are the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you're like me and need a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).



November 1: Week 44 - Anti-Muslim and Anti-Islamic Discrimination

[Read the full entry online.](#)

November is Islamophobia Awareness Month, run by the Muslim Engagement and Development (MEND) non-profit in the United Kingdom. Kumi Now would like to bring the message of Islamophobia Awareness Month to a world audience.

The constant slings and arrows inherent in the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory have all the markings of anti-Muslim and anti-Islamic discrimination. While not all Palestinians are Muslims, and the

overwhelming majority of Muslims have never engaged in any kind of violence, the overarching view in Western media of Palestinians as Muslim terrorists has done nothing to build global support for the anti-colonial struggles of the Palestinians in a way that the world supported the struggles in Ireland, India, and South Africa.

For our Kumi Action we will be addressing anti-Muslim and anti-Islamic discrimination in our own neighborhoods and reaching out to local mosques or Islamic centers.



November 8: Week 45 - Antisemitism

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Across Europe, November 9 is the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism. As a nonviolent movement dedicated to achieving peace for all people in Palestine, it is critical that the Kumi Now community understands and fights all forms of hate, including antisemitism. As we work for justice for Palestine, let us also remember and renew our call for the elimination of antisemitism in all its forms.

For our Kumi Action we will be addressing antisemitism in our own neighborhoods and reaching out to local synagogues or Jewish center.



November 15: Week 46 - Children's Rights

[Read the full entry online.](#)

This week, as people around the world celebrate Universal Children's Day on November 20, we are reminded that Palestinian children are denied the human rights and opportunities available to children elsewhere in the world and only a short distance away in the settlements and Israel.

For our Kumi Action we will be sharing photos of ourselves as children, along with messages supporting Palestinian children.

November 22: Week 47 - Gender-Based Violence

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Women in the occupied Palestinian territory face



persistent gender-based violence through night raids, settler violence, collective violence towards their families, humiliation and assault from occupation forces, and the restrictions of a patriarchal society. This week, the United Nations observes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25.

For our Kumi Action we write and send flowers to the U.N. Women's office asking why the U.N. is not keeping Israel accountable to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.



November 29: Week 48 - The Kairos Document

[Read the full entry online.](#)

In 1985, theologians around Soweto, South Africa issued the first Kairos Document. Twenty-four years later, theologians in Palestine issued a like-minded document. This week, as the world observes International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on November 29, the Kumi Now community is focusing on spreading the message of the Kairos Document, bringing Christians and non-Christians together to stand for justice and peace everywhere.

For our Kumi Action we will be reading and sharing the Kairos Palestine document.

Closing Thoughts

On Tuesday we met to discuss the corporations and governments profiting from Israel's occupation of Palestine. In the end, we weren't able to have a guest. Instead, we had an open discussion about the topic and other issues, including [Australia's reversal](#) on Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and [Samia Khoury's letter](#) about her grandson. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes the advocacy instructions and links shared during the gathering.

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter Saturday, focused on our next topic, [Anti-Muslim and Anti-Islamic Discrimination](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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