

SAWA-All The Women Together Today And Tomorrow

Together we create the human potential for nation-building

Newsletter No. 6 –December 2008

SAWA Free Child Helpline 121 represents Palestine in the Fourth International Conference on Child Helplines

Recently, the Palestinian Child Helpline 121 represented Palestine in the Fourth International Conference for the International Network of Child Helplines, attended by 130 countries from all around the world. During this event, the Palestinian Child helpline was elected to represent the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in the Support and Advocacy Committee. The main goal of this conference was to create an opportunity for exchanging experience and knowledge between countries members of the Network. Participants discussed several issues, mainly how to protect children from modern communication means, the importance of voluntarism in child protection, as well as how to raise awareness of parents and institutions serving Children.

Third training course for the Free Child Helpline 121 volunteers concludes

By concluding the third training course for young volunteers in the Palestinian Free Child Helpline 121 Program, the total number of volunteers in the Program has increased to 29 persons. The course lasted for four months and included 77 training hours.

Training course for personnel from security forces concludes

SAWA concluded a 3-day training course with the participation of 20 recruits in the security forces from various ranks. Through the course, the participants were introduced to the basic principles of human rights, the concept of sexual violence and abuse, indicators and psychological, physical and Social consequences of sexual abuse. This training is part of An ongoing effort by SAWA since the beginning of the year in the training of personnel from security forces and from various ranks on how to deal with women and children victims of violence. This ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Interior is envisaged to support the rule of law and social justice.

Receipt of guests and exchange of experience

The Palestinian Free Child Helpline 121 received a 3-day visit by the French Development Group. The guests were introduced to the Child Helpline and the psychological support and counseling services it offers, as well as training programs offered by SAWA to both male and female volunteers working in the Helpline.

SAWA also received a delegation from Doctors Without Borders working in Iraq, who were introduced to our experience in using the helpline for the provision of psychological support and counseling services to women and children, with a view of replicating the experience in Iraq.

**SAWA Fourth Conference held under the
logo: "Our Silence Means Offender's
Freedom"**

In his remarks in the opening of SAWA Fourth Conference, HE Minister of Interior Abdul-Razzaq Al-Yehya stressed the Ministry's determination to train police personnel on how to provide protection to women and children victims of violence. This year's conference addressed several special themes, discussing a number of working papers such as pedophilia and young people perpetrating sexual abuses against children. The conference also shed light on the psychology and therapy of sexual offenders. The participants were introduced to the concept of distance abuse and safe use of modern communication technology, including the internet and mobile phones.

**The 16 Day Campaign against Violence
against Women: The first festival against
violence against women in Palestine**

As members in the NGO Forum for Combating Violence against Women (Al-Muntada), SAWA joined the Ministry of Women's Affairs and international organizations in the organization of the first ever festival in Palestine for combating violence against women.

This festival was held on 4 December 2008 in Ramallah Cultural Palace as part of the international 16 day campaign against violence against women. It witnessed a wide participation of civil society organizations, NGOs and women organizations.

**The Palestinian Free Child Helpline
121 available around the clock**

In view of the tragic conditions experienced by the Palestinians in Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Free Child Helpline 121 decided to provide psychological support and counseling services to people from Gaza Strip around the clock. For those willing to volunteer, please call 242 6267 or send an email to 121@sawa.ps.

**Workshop to discuss draft study report
on: *Women's satisfaction with services of
antiviolence institutions***

In cooperation with Welfare Association, SAWA organized a workshop to present and discuss the findings of the draft report on a study prepared by Suheir Odeh, researcher, on "Women's satisfaction with services offered to them by institutions providing protection of women from violence". The workshop was attended by a large number of representatives from Palestinian ministries, civil society organizations, NGOs and women organizations.

Participation in events abroad

Recently, SAWA participated in an international workshop held in Amman on Follow up Strategies and Plans regarding the trafficking in women and girls in the Middle East. Relevant working papers were presented by the participating countries. Means to combat trafficking in women and girls will be explored in future sessions.