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Press Release

Kayan: Instead of engaging in political persecution, promote a program to eradicate violence against women

The request of Kayan - Feminist Organization to obtain approval from the Knesset Finance Committee in order to qualify for a tax benefit under section (46) of the Income Tax Ordinance, was returned to the Legal Adviser of the Finance Committee and the Tax Authority, requesting re-examination of the facts of the case, at the request of the head of the Finance Committee, MK Alex Kushnir. Hence the request was removed from the schedule of the day following complaints raised by MK Nir Orbach in relation to information he brought that the organization "acts against the interests of the State of Israel". Orbach explained to the Committee that the organization works in favor of "strengthening the Palestinian message about the Nakba... and raising awareness of the Nakba".

Kayan, which holds a proper management certificate, states that all its activities are in accordance with the law. The main activity of the organization is to promote the status of Arab women, both within Arab society and with state authorities. In addition, the organization conducts extensive educational and social activities in Arab society in order to bring about social change that will lead to a more just and egalitarian society that does not discriminate against women on the basis of gender or nationality. The issue of violence against women and femicide is also at the forefront of the organization's agenda, and many of its protests, research projects and educational activities focus on this issue.

The organization has never hidden its activities on the Nakba, including the "Women on the Return" project, which deals with Arab villages destroyed during the Nakba in 1948. As part of the project, the organization tours women in some of these villages, accompanied by historians, and women learn about the village and its history. Kayan believes that knowledge and awareness of the history of the Palestinian people in Israel are part of the activity that empower Palestinian women and advance and strengthen their political and social standing. MK Orbach was quoted as saying in the Committee's deliberations that Kayan "deals, among



other things, with the fields of land, housing and the right of Arabs to return to the '48 borders," However, Kayan does not see raising these issues as illegal.

Kayan's director, Rafah Anabtawy, said: "we call on politicians and Knesset members involved in the political persecution of civil society organizations to work for women in Israel, and encourage them to advance plans to combat femicide, sexual harassment and eradicate violence against women, as the data shows a worrying picture on the matter of police and social services' work in relation to protecting women against violence in Arab society."

For further details

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