

# Together for the Repeal of the Israeli anti-Family Reunification Law

The "Fada coalition - Palestinian Women Against Violence", the General Union of Palestinian Women, the Palestinian Women's Coalition for Implementing UNSCR 1325, and the Alternative 1325 coalition within the Green line, all condemn the Israeli government's intention to submit the racist citizenship law to the Knesset plenary for renewal, and so as women's coalitions are calling for the repeal of this law in the following statement:

In an arbitrary and unjust move, the Israeli government is expected to present a law banning family reunification before the Knesset plenary this week to vote on its renewal. This law, which was enacted on a so-called temporary basis in 2003, prevents family reunification, particularly between Palestinians from lands occupied in 1948, and their spouses who are residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which were occupied in 1967. While ostensibly temporary in nature, this law has effectively become permanent, as it has been consistently renewed every year and put into effect through the approval of the General Assembly of the Israeli Knesset.

On behalf of the women's coalitions, we maintain that this law is fundamentally unjust and racist, the blatant nature of which is nearly unparalleled around the world. As a result, we call for its total repeal in order to begin to undo its devastating effects on the lives of tens of thousands of Palestinians. This includes the forced separation of individuals, who are thus deprived of their basic right to form a family, as well as deprived of the most basic human rights, such as access to medical and social services. Furthermore, it is well known and well-documented that Palestinian women are among those most affected by this law and most vulnerable to the consequent violations of their rights.

In particular, this law causes great harm to Palestinian women who have been subjected to GBV, as the institutions that provide protection to women victims and survivors cannot provide

their services to Palestinian women, who due to this law have been deprived of legal status within the Green Line, and thus cannot access their most basic human rights to personal security and protection from violence. In addition to being unable to access GBV-sensitive services, they may also have their rights, such as the right to custody of their children, violated, or be denied their full rights in the event of being separated or divorced from their husbands or in the event of their husband's death.

Overall, this law is a destructive policy which seeks to target Palestinian existence itself; it is another tool in Israel's demographic wars, which seeks to control as much Palestinian land with as few Palestinians on it, and with those remaining having as few individual or collective rights as possible. The renewal of this law - which targets tens of thousands of Palestinians, most of whom are women - confirms once again the intertwining nature of multiple

forms of discrimination and oppression, where for Palestinian women, the oppression of living under colonial rule is only further perpetuated by patriarchal control.

We as women coalitions, per our strong belief in justice and universal human rights values, affirm the demand of those most impacted by this unjust law for its total repeal, and that all attempts aimed at "improving its conditions", or treating women's rights as a priority compared to other rights, must be rejected, as human rights and the prevention of discrimination are complementary and interdependent, and therefore cannot be separated.

We also call on the international community, those in decision-making positions who oppose racism and discrimination in all forms, and all those who believe in the values of justice and human dignity to pressure the Israeli occupation state to repeal this racist law, which deprives our people of basic human rights simply because of their nationality as Palestinians, and to prevent its renewal.

