



کیان . تنظیہ نسوی
KAYAN- FEMINIST ORGANIZATION

No darkness can extinguish us

Kayan – Feminist Organization
Annual Activity Report 2023

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| A Message from our General Director | 3 |
| Thank you Rafah | 5 |
| About Kayan | 6 |
| Our Work | 6 |
| Our Mission | 6 |
| Our Vision | 6 |
| Our Team and Board of Directors | 7 |
| Annual Impact in Numbers | 8 |
| Community Activism | 9 |
| Fighting Patriarchal Violence and Femicide | 13 |
| Combating Sexual Harassment | 17 |
| Support and Emergency Hotline..... | 19 |
| Legal Support Department | 22 |
| Increasing Women and Youth Representation in Politics | 25 |
| Kayan on the Screen | 29 |
| 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based | 33 |
| Financial Report | 36 |
| Supporting Kayan | 38 |
| With Thanks to Our Supporters | 40 |



A Message from our General Director



Dear Kayan community,
Greetings,

First, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the board of Kayan, its former general director Rafah Anabtawi, and the Kayan staff for entrusting me with the position of general director. I joined Kayan's team four years ago as coordinator of the emergency hotline and volunteer department. At the end of last year, I took over as director of the organization, a position that dear Rafah Anabtawi held for ten years before deciding to move to the next stage of her professional journey.

My journey into the new job coincided with the onset of the war which has swiftly reshaped priorities not just within our organization and society, but across the globe. The year 2023 brimmed with activity, accomplishments, and a sense of rejuvenation at Kayan. Yet, its tragic conclusion, stretching into the present year, casts a dark shadow over all preceding achievements, rendering them seemingly distant. Every discourse during this time seemed trivial unless centered around the war and its profound calamity, which continues to afflict our people in Gaza. Despite the pervasive sorrow, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ending violence and injustice towards women, diligently working towards restoring their rights and dignity. Furthermore, we are duty-bound to persist in enhancing the welfare of our people and fortifying their resilience with unwavering dedication.

Amidst the pervasive frustration and fear that gripped our society during this period, and despite the efforts to stifle voices of protest, we remained resolute in our commitment to make a difference within the confines of our capacities. Our focus was unwaveringly directed towards empowering the youth of our community to navigate the rising tide of political persecution within Israeli workplaces and educational institutions. We bolstered our support and emergency services, extending them to encompass all segments of society and adapt to their evolving needs. To enhance our legal support, we augmented our team with additional lawyers dedicated to offering expert counsel. Furthermore, we facilitated numerous dialogues and seminars aimed at mitigating the repercussions of online harassment and surveillance, safeguarding labor rights, and preserving freedom of expression amidst the backdrop of the ongoing war and the new socio-political landscape imposed on our society since October 7th.

In the field, the efforts of the Jusur National Forum of Arab Women and our grassroots organizations were concentrated on extending vital assistance to women and families in Arab villages. Leveraging our 16-Day campaign, we reaffirmed our right to national identity and the expression of our political positions, while also addressing pressing needs that emerged since October 7th. Our support and emergency hotline offered guidance on labor rights violations amidst the backdrop of political persecution. Furthermore, the campaign shed light on the silent psychological burden borne by our women during times of conflict, emphasizing the importance of active participation, expression, and prioritization of mental and physical well-being. We ensured that the details of our support line were readily available anyone in need.

Despite the campaign of repression and intimidating arrests targeting freedom of expression, Kayan issued two statements demanding an end to the aggression against Gaza and an end to the muzzling attack on our society at home. We all hope that the brutal genocide will stop, that our people will overcome this ordeal, and that security, stability and normal life will return to the afflicted Gaza Strip as soon as possible.

It's important to highlight that this report will include a comprehensive overview of our non-war-related activities up to October 2023 for informational and archival purposes. Subsequently, we will delve into a detailed analysis of how Kayan has navigated through emergencies and swiftly adapted to rapid changes since the onset of the war.

Nisreen Tabari, General Director



Thank you Rafah!



At the end of the year, with Kayan's staff, administrative body, partners and friends, we convened a ceremony honoring our esteemed colleague Rafah Anabtawi. After a decade of dedicated service as the General Director of Kayan, Rafah bid farewell. Throughout her tenure, she spearheaded the establishment and evolution of a robust professional feminist framework, the impact of which reverberated across local, regional, and international platforms.

During the ceremony, we presented Rafah with a booklet collecting the testimonies of colleagues, partners, and friends who were fortunate enough to have worked with her. They bore witness to her rare determination and dedication, and unwavering affiliation with and great faith in the power of women and men to change and advance society towards justice with confidence and stability, and without hesitation or compromise.

Thank you Rafah, we wish you more success in your new path.

Link to Rafah's letter: <https://t.ly/ld9Wf>

Explore the booklet to witness firsthand the profound impact of a woman whose actions align seamlessly with her words—a testament to her unwavering commitment. She embodies the essence of the Palestinian woman, a beacon of resilience who defies the notion of impossibility. <https://bit.ly/rafahbook>



About Kayan

Established in 1998 by a collective of Palestinian feminists in Haifa, Kayan is a pioneering feminist organization dedicated to elevating the status of Palestinian women within the 1948 borders and enhancing their quality of life. Kayan's approach to advocating for women's rights is deeply rooted in grassroots activism, leveraging the strength of 12 activist groups situated in Arab towns. In 2020, Kayan further fortified its foundation by establishing and nurturing youth groups for both sexes, thereby expanding its reach and impact within Palestinian society.

Our Work

Unified in purpose, we work to dismantle the social and institutional barriers obstructing gender equality and justice. Our multifaceted endeavours include workshops and lectures to raise awareness in schools and community centers, campaigns – both on the ground and digital, media presence, and constant communication with our community through local groups and the national Jusur Forum. Kayan extends invaluable support to women through consultations, legal advocacy, and emotional guidance via our support and emergency hotline. In pursuit of our mission, we forge partnerships with local, national, and international entities to actualize the rights of Palestinian women.

Our Mission

All our projects aim to enhance our abilities as women and consolidate our collective power to advance our political, social, economic, and legal rights. Through over 25 years of work, we've established an organized and active Palestinian feminist movement in hopes of its expansion to reach all our cities and villages, to uproot gender discrimination, and defend the lives, safety, and status of women, socially, politically and legally.

Our Vision

We envision a secure and just society free of every form of discrimination, including gender-based discrimination, in which Palestinian women enjoy full and equitable opportunities for self-actualization and take a leading and active part in society through realizing their individual and collective rights.



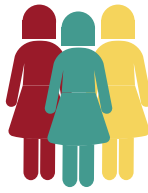
Our Team

- Rafah Anabtawi, General Director (until October 2023)
- Nisreen Tabari, General Director
- Lana Mazzawi, Office Manager
- Alhan Nahhas-Daoud, Legal Advocate
- Yara Daw, Hotline & Volunteer Project Coordinator
- Hajar Abu Salih, Community Organizer
- Lian Derini, Community Organizer
- Rawia Lucia, Community Work Organizer (until March 2023)
- Leandra Hettenbach, Resource Development Coordinator
- Francis Tams, Accountant

Our Board of Directors

- Dr. Hanaa Hamdan-Saliba
- Dr. Mariam Haj
- Boshra Rashed Awwad
- Reem Haj
- Ruzeen Odeh
- Abeer Bkheet

Annual Impact in Numbers



25

Female leaders in the national Jusur Forum today

12

Local women's groups active in Arab towns

100

Female activists in our local women's groups



4,510

Received calls through Kayan's support hotline



902

Women received legal and emotional support



142

Men received legal consultation on labor persecution since the war



10

Female volunteers completed Kayan's hotline training



51%

Women took action to change their situation



22

Towns were reached through our work with local women's groups



10

Female member of local authorities received professional support from Kayan



32

Sexual harassment appointees in local authorities received supervision and professional support

Our Voice is Heard



152,1795

FB and Instagram views



6

UN report submissions



5

Public documentary screenings on the Nakba and Right of Return



52

Media coverage and presence of Kayan's team and Jusur Forum



15

Online seminars on political and social issues



Community Activism

Jusur – Bridges to People

The Jusur National Women's Forum serves as the vibrant heartbeat of our community, bridging the gap between us and the young women and men of our society. Established by Kayan in 2009, the forum spearheads the grassroots feminist movement, boasting a membership of 25 women leaders who represent 12 local women's groups across Arab villages and cities. Throughout the year, the forum convenes with Kayan for training sessions, strategic planning, and collaborative efforts aimed at addressing pressing issues, formulating action plans, and coordinating impactful national initiatives.



Local Groups

Comprising female activists and dedicated volunteers spanning across 12 Arab villages and cities, the local groups represent a diverse array of talents and expertise. Over the span of 14 years, the collaborative efforts between the Jusur forum and Kayan have been instrumental in nurturing and amplifying the impact of each local group and its activists. This unique and pioneering Arab feminist movement, fostered through our joint endeavors, now stands as a beacon of advocacy for women's rights, striving to enhance their living standards and effect tangible change through grassroots engagement with the community.





Jusur 2023

At the beginning of the year, the Jusur Forum convened for a pivotal planning session, centering on strategies to empower youth



for active involvement in catalyzing social transformation and elevating local issues to national prominence. With 2023 designated as an election year for local authorities, the meeting discussed ways to overcome major obstacles hindering the advancement of initiatives aimed at bolstering the political representation of women and youth. These demographics, often marginalized and subjected to systemic oppression and violence, confront daunting barriers in their quest for societal change.

The forum members unanimously agreed on the necessity of persisting in their engagement within the electoral sphere, undeterred by the prevailing frustrations and formidable challenges. Additionally, a collective decision was reached to actively endorse female candidates for the upcoming local authority elections, with three forum members expressing their intention to run as candidates.

It was also decided to hold the annual Jusur and Kayan conference this year on the topic of women and youth's participation in local politics, focusing on the culture of elections and its role in the continuation of corruption in the local government system.

The conference was held and support was provided for female candidates during the year, until to the outbreak of the horrendous war near the year's end.

Jusur During the War

Jusur has extensive experience in dealing with crises, as witnessed during COVID. Since the beginning of the



war on October 7, the Forum and local groups were determined to examine the emerging needs in Arab towns. The activists organized awareness circles, visits to the elderly, wellness checks on each other and for local women, communication and sharing spaces, and overall, provided much needed support to meet the needs of women and their families during the time of war.

Youth

In addition to the Jusur Forum and local women's groups, in 2020 Kayan established a youth group consisting of 15 university students. Meeting twice a month, the group collaborates to design and execute projects aimed at enhancing the living conditions within their community. Central to the program's mission is the nurturing of critical thinking, fostering freedom of expression, promoting initiative, facilitating political engagement, and empowering youth to make impactful decisions that shape their lives. Throughout their meetings, the group delves into pressing human rights issues, equipping themselves with the necessary tools for advocacy. At the outset of the year, the group collectively recognized the imperative of combatting violence and crime through various means, foremost among them being the bolstering of societal cohesion and shedding light on the role of patriarchal violence in perpetuating broader societal unrest. With a vision to cultivate a sense of safety within society, the group prioritizes the involvement of women and youth in conflict resolution initiatives.





Fighting Patriarchal Violence and Femicide

Another Bloody Year

In 2023, 17 Palestinian women were murdered within the 1948 Borders, among them Aya Hajjaj, whose life was tragically cut short on December 27th, 2023, along with her unborn child. Despite a notable increase in femicide, these crimes often go unnoticed or receive scant attention within our society. Kayan has been vocal in shedding light on this troubling issue, utilizing social media posts and media statements to draw attention to the phenomenon of ignoring femicide and violence against women. Criticizing the complacency of society and certain leaders in downplaying femicide as merely part of the broader spectrum of organized violence plaguing our society, Kayan emphasizes the urgent need to address this issue. With the overall toll of violence escalating to over 220 victims by year's end, Kayan urges every woman who has experienced abuse or threats to break the silence and seek legal assistance from Kayan or other trusted parties without hesitation.



Femicide Documentation

We make sure to document every case of femicide in our society, publishing the victim's name, picture, and all the information we can gather regarding her and the crime. We follow the case and share it on our accounts and our Fada Coalition of Palestinian Women Against Violence's page. We further demand that people take a clear stand against femicide and violence against women, and keep this issue present in public consciousness.

Amidst the magnitude and brutality of war crimes and their devastating aftermath, we remain vigilant against any desensitization that could render the victims of patriarchy mere statistics amidst the sea of blood engulfing our people. 2023 will be etched in our memories as a year marred by the loss of tens of thousands of Palestinian men and women to the ravages of war, as well as a year where domestic violence claimed the lives of 17 women at the hands of their relatives or family members solely because of their gender. Each victim will be commemorated individually, honored by name, story, and image. Our resolve remains steadfast in our pursuit of justice, advocating tirelessly for the prosecution of perpetrators until they are held accountable for their heinous deeds.

In Loyalty to Wafaa

Kayan Feminist Organization continues to closely monitor the tragic case of Wafaa Abahre, who fell victim to femicide at the hands of her ex-husband on November 16, 2020. We stand in solidarity with Wafaa's family throughout every stage of the judicial process, ensuring they are supported and represented fully. Attorney Abeer Baker has been appointed by the organization to advocate for the family during the trial, and we are mobilizing supporters to attend hearings alongside them. While acknowledging that Wafaa's murder is not an isolated incident, with approximately 41 women meeting similar fates since that tragic day, we vehemently refuse to allow Wafaa and the other victims to be reduced to mere statistics. It is imperative that we honor their memories by ensuring they receive the justice they deserve. Through our active participation in the legal proceedings and our vocal condemnation of femicide, we aim to harness public attention and pressure authorities into taking meaningful action against these heinous crimes. Our commitment to seeking justice for Wafaa and all victims of femicide is unwavering, driven by our loyalty to her memory and our determination to create a safer society for all women.





Accompanying Families and Persecuting Criminals

We are deeply committed to providing comprehensive support to the families of femicide victims throughout the judicial process, standing resolute against the complacency of a system that fails to adequately address the murders of Palestinian women. Our unwavering stance includes advocating against plea bargains with prosecutors, which often result in reduced sentences and may inadvertently signal leniency towards future perpetrators. Kayan offers crucial support and guidance to the victims' families in accordance with the Rights of Victims of Crime Act. Through our publications and public statements, we have consistently urged victimized families to reach out to us for both legal and emotional assistance, mirroring the support extended to Wafaa's family. This service, provided by our organization, is offered free of charge upon receipt of a formal request and power of attorney from the family.



Roots of Violence against Women

During the initial months of the previous year, our workshops with school students centered on the pervasive issue of violence and crime within our society, particularly highlighting its correlation with violence against women. Delving into the intricate relationship between patriarchal ideologies and societal violence, we addressed the alarming surge in violence targeting women and explored potential avenues for intervention. Our engagement with youth in educational settings offers a safe environment wherein they can openly discuss topics impacting their lives, free from fear. In these sessions, we lend a receptive ear to every testimony, experience, and idea shared, recognizing the invaluable insights and lessons they provide.

Workshop of Workshops

We facilitated a specialized workshop aimed at equipping female activists from our local groups in Arraba and Zalfa with the necessary skills to organize comprehensive awareness sessions on various forms of violence for school students. The objective was to empower participants to effectively reach a broader audience and amplify the impact of their efforts.





Combating Sexual Harassment

In the Workplace

Continuing our steadfast commitment to combatting workplace sexual harassment, and as part of our initiative to bolster the capacities of appointed individuals tasked with preventing such misconduct in Arab local authorities, we organized a seminar at the Umm al-Fahm municipality. Attended by a cohort of female officials representing sexual harassment prevention departments from various local authorities, along with department heads, social workers, and employees from Umm al-Fahm municipality, the seminar aimed to enhance awareness and strategize effective measures against workplace harassment.

We engaged in a dialogue with women tasked with preventing sexual harassment in local councils, attentively listening to their firsthand experiences and the formidable challenges they encounter in their roles. Addressing the disparity between legal mandates and practical implementation, we explored strategies for bridging this gap effectively. Emphasizing the pivotal role of these officials, we underscored the significance of their expertise in implementing preventative measures and their vital contribution to fostering awareness among colleagues, thereby cultivating a healthy and respectful workplace culture.

Moreover, we delved into the overarching responsibility of employers, particularly the leaders of local authorities, to cultivate a workplace environment that is safe, equitable, and supportive for women. The decision by Umm al-Fahm Municipality to host this event holds profound significance for us and sends a powerful message to other local authorities. It underscores the unequivocal stance that sexual harassment in the workplace is intolerable and must be openly addressed. By acknowledging its existence as a pervasive issue across various workplaces and emphasizing the legal, ethical, and professional imperatives against sexual harassment, we reject the notion of sweeping it under the rug. Instead, we advocate for proactive measures to confront and combat this insidious phenomenon head-on.

At Schools

Throughout the year, we facilitated a series of 20 workshops aimed at school students, focusing on raising awareness about various forms of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and cyber blackmail. These interactive sessions delved into the far-reaching consequences of such crimes, highlighting the impact on both the perpetrator and victim. Given the prevalence of cyber blackmail among young people, particular emphasis was placed on this topic, stressing the importance of supporting the victim and ensuring full accountability for the aggressor. Approximately 540 male and female students from Nazareth, Sakhnin, Jdeideh al-Maker, Kabul, Rameh, and Haifa actively participated in these workshops, engaging in meaningful discussions and gaining valuable insights into safeguarding themselves and their peers from harm.



Hear My Silence

We released a comprehensive booklet titled "Hear My Silence," serving as a preventative guide addressing the pervasive issue of sexual harassment among youth. Recognized as one of the prevalent sources of crises and distress among both girls and boys over the past decade, this publication aims to provide proactive measures and support mechanisms to combat this pressing societal concern.

The guide comprises six comprehensive chapters, where we meticulously examine the legal definitions of sexual violence alongside real-life narratives from both girls and boys who have endured harassment. Delving deeper, we explore the complex emotions experienced by those impacted. Offering invaluable insights, the guide equips young individuals with the discernment to differentiate between genuine closeness or admiration and the insidious nature of harassment. Moreover, it furnishes practical tools aimed at proactively preventing instances of harassment from occurring.



The guide meticulously confronts prevalent misconceptions within society surrounding sexual harassment crimes, shedding light on their origins, adoption, and their pivotal role in fostering ambiguous sentiments. Within "Hear My Silence," we delve into the nuanced reactions of harassment victims, exploring the myriad factors influencing their responses towards the perpetrator. Additionally, we candidly discuss the spectrum of emotions experienced, from fear and silence to denial, resignation, and the crucial significance of familial support for those affected by sexual harassment.



Support and Emergency Hotline

Line Busy

Between the start of the year and October 7th, the support and emergency hotline managed 272 calls, extending assistance to women dealing with a spectrum of issues including domestic violence, sexual harassment, discrimination, socio-economic challenges, and more. However, following the onset of the war, the hotline experienced a dramatic surge, receiving 628 calls. This unprecedented increase was largely attributed to heightened political restrictions and persecution, particularly evident within Israeli workplaces and educational settings. In response, the hotline diligently offered legal guidance, emotional support, and professional consultation on labor and education laws to address the evolving needs of callers.

Women Together along the Line

During the first quarter of the year, we inaugurated a novel training course tailored for women's emergency support hotline volunteers, attracting the participation of 10 female volunteer trainees. Throughout the sessions, our emphasis remained steadfast on presenting a pragmatic feminist approach, consciously steering clear of clichés and attitudes deemed confrontational by anti-feminists. Central

to our curriculum was the profound connection this approach shares with social justice and its pivotal role in catalyzing transformative societal change, fostering a safer and more equitable environment for families and vulnerable demographics, all the while addressing those critical of feminism and its perceived impact on societal structures. Additionally, we administered an objective assessment to measure the extent of our susceptibility to prevalent societal stereotypes, while also exploring how our individual perspectives and beliefs influence our judgments and interpersonal dynamics. This comprehensive course transcended the mere provision of professional tools for offering emotional and legal support via the hotline, fostering an environment conducive to candid, impassioned, and in-depth discussions on pertinent feminist issues, facilitating the exchange of opinions and experiences among participants.

Support During War

During the war, our support and emergency hotline services underwent a significant expansion to encompass all segments of Palestinian society within the 1948 borders, addressing the emergent needs precipitated by the crisis. With a sharp focus on labor and education issues, we focused on the escalating political violence targeting our community within Israeli workplaces and educational institutions post-October 7th. Throughout the duration of the war, Kayan pivoted its efforts to specialize in labor-related cases, extending legal support and consultation to numerous cases of dismissal from work and punitive measures leveled against Arab employees based on their political beliefs and affiliations. During the initial weeks of the conflict, when our community faced an unprecedented onslaught aimed at silencing dissent



and undermining voices advocating against genocidal incitement, we handled hundreds of calls concerning these pressing cases, standing resolutely in defense of justice and equality.



Attorneys On the Line

In response to the onset of the war, we swiftly assembled a dedicated team of volunteer attorneys to address the pressing need for legal consultation. Comprising esteemed legal professionals such as Hisham Daoud, Qais Salaymeh, Shakeeb Qubti, and Awni Banna, alongside our accomplished female attorneys Maha Ighbariah and Abeer Bakr, the team was poised to offer vital assistance. As the year drew to a close, we formalized our commitment by integrating attorneys Awni Banna and Abeer Bakr into our permanent roster of legal consultants. Specializing in labor and education rights as well as freedom of speech, they now provide pro bono legal representation in relevant cases. Moreover, Kayan remains steadfast in its advocacy, continuing to offer support to victims of sexual harassment cases through legal representation and assistance.



Legal Support Department

Report to the United Nations on Violence and Discrimination Against Palestinian Women

Kayan actively pursues opportunities for international advocacy, leveraging every available avenue to uphold justice for Palestinian women. We remain steadfast in our commitment to amplify their voices and highlight their cases on global platforms, shedding light on the pervasive human rights violations endured by Palestinian society within the 1948 borders, with a particular focus on Palestinian women. To this end, our organization presented a comprehensive report to the preparatory working group for the eighty-eighth session of the Committee against Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) at the United Nations. This report implored the committee to hold Israel accountable for its systematic violations of the rights of Palestinian women, meticulously detailing the various forms of discrimination they encounter at the hands of state institutions across multiple domains.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that Kayan, in collaboration with Miftah - the Palestinian Initiative to Deepen Global Dialogue and Democracy, submitted an additional report to the preparatory group. This report focused on the state's infringements upon the rights of Palestinian women from Jerusalem, outlining violations spanning economic and political rights, access to education, and familial rights.

Accompanying Women Through Judiciary Processes

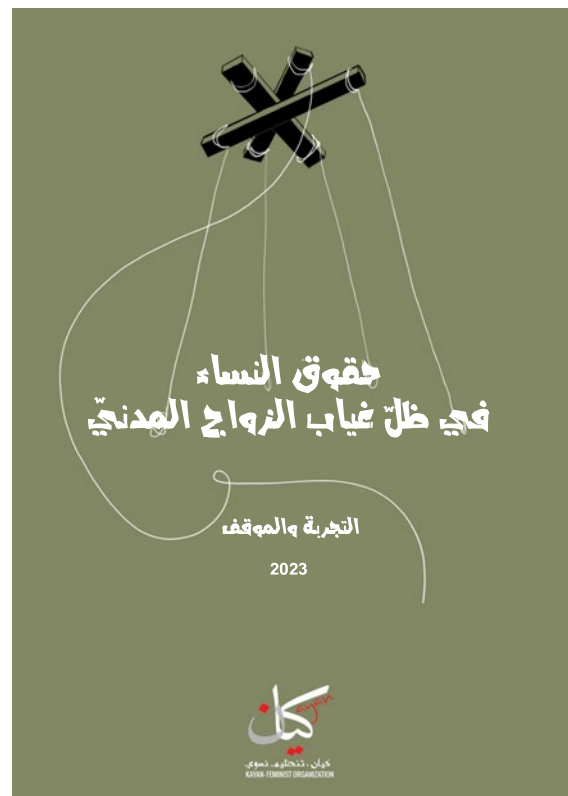
As part of our ongoing endeavors to raise awareness about personal status issues and the challenges faced by women in religious courts, Attorney Alhan Nahhas-Daoud, Head of Kayan's Legal Department, delivered a lecture at the University of Haifa titled "You Are Not Alone." During this lecture, she eloquently addressed the injustices and various forms of discrimination encountered by women in Sharia, ecclesiastical, and Druze courts. Attorney Nahhas-Daoud also elucidated the support mechanisms provided by Kayan to women navigating the judicial system, inviting attendees to seek assistance from Kayan and encouraging others to avail themselves of consultation and support in personal status matters.

Additionally, we broached the topic of lawsuits within the Personal Status Law and the application of civil law, underscoring our commitment to supporting and accompanying women affected by discrimination in personal status cases. This dedication was further manifested during our active participation in the conference "Gender, State, and Religion," organized by Mada al-Carmel, the Hebrew University, and the Personal Status Committee.



Women's Rights in the Absence of Civil Marriage

As part of our ongoing efforts to combat discrimination against women in the realm of personal status, we released a comprehensive booklet titled "Women's Rights in the Absence of Civil Marriage." This publication serves as a comprehensive resource, elucidating the intricacies of civil marriage options and the prevailing system of marriage and divorce in Israel. It meticulously outlines the various forms of discrimination faced by women due to the absence of a civil framework for addressing marriage and divorce matters.



Moreover, the booklet showcases the findings of a survey conducted by Kayan, offering insights gleaned from a targeted sample of Palestinians within the 1948 borders. This survey serves as preliminary research, aiding in the identification of priorities and informing our future course of action on this issue. By disseminating the booklet to relevant institutions, we aim to provide a valuable reference point for stakeholders engaged in addressing this critical issue.

Reducing Ecclesiastical Court Fees

Kayan persistently advocates before religious courts, drawing attention to the burdensome fees imposed on women within church courts and the myriad challenges they encounter within these legal settings. Recently, Kayan initiated a collective legal action aimed at reducing the exorbitant fees levied by ecclesiastical courts. In presenting our case, we underscored the profound injustice inflicted upon women who are financially incapable of meeting these steep financial demands. Such hurdles not only impede their access to justice within church courts but also jeopardize their fundamental rights pertaining to personal status matters.

Raising Awareness and Providing Legal Information during War

Throughout the duration of the war, Kayan organized a series of informative lectures and discussions with legal experts, complemented by exclusive workshops conducted in universities and the Physicians Forum in Beer el-Sabea. These sessions were meticulously designed to address the prevalent concerns and anxieties gripping our society amidst the backdrop of political oppression and intimidation campaigns. Hundreds of Palestinians grappling with workplace and educational institution-related challenges, including those arising on social media platforms, found a platform to voice their fears and seek guidance during these enlightening engagements.





Increasing Women and Youth Representation in Politics

Accompanying Women and Youth on the Path to Change

In recent years, Kayan has been actively advocating for enhanced solidarity and collaboration between feminist activists and youth movements. This concerted effort aims to challenge the prevailing reality where these vital groups often find themselves marginalized from decision-making processes that directly impact their lives. In alignment with this mission, Kayan extends support to promising independent women candidates and youth-led lists during elections. Notably, in the current election cycle, three prominent leaders from the Jusur Forum declared their candidacy, underscoring our commitment to fostering diverse representation.

Furthermore, we emphasize the importance of women and youth representation in local authorities and decision-making positions via workshops we conduct for school students and local women's groups. Through these interactive sessions, we empower and inspire future generations to actively engage in shaping their communities and advocating for their rights.



Blank Ballot

Before the outbreak of the war and the subsequent postponement of local authority elections, Kayan spearheaded an initiative aimed at enhancing the representation of women and youth in the political arena. In collaboration with Jusur, the organization launched the 'Blank Ballot' campaign under the resonating slogan "Keep Your Voice Clear." This campaign introduced the concept of boycotting elections as a legitimate means to express dissent against the prevailing atmosphere of violence, which often fuels further corruption.

Moreover, Kayan advocated for voting in alignment with the best interests of local communities, urging individuals to abstain from supporting candidates associated with corruption or incompetence. This call to action underscored the importance of maintaining integrity in the electoral process and refraining from contributing to the perpetuation of systemic flaws.

In Support of Samira

Kayan has been steadfastly supporting a group from Issifya and its independent electoral list, "New-Issifya," under the leadership of Samira Azzam, since the group's formation. Providing a comprehensive array of resources and expertise, Kayan has played a pivotal role in facilitating the formation of a media team for the electoral campaign, aiding in the development of its messaging, and strategizing its advertising efforts. Notably, Kayan's assistance contributed to the previous success of the list, securing an aldermanship seat



in the Council during the prior elections. Building upon this achievement, Kayan remains committed to ensuring the continued representation of "New-Issifya" in the upcoming elections.





Culture of Election and Seeds of Corruption

Kayan, in collaboration with the Jusur Forum, convened its annual conference in Nazareth on September 10, 2023, themed "Culture of Election and Seeds of Corruption." The conference sought to provide a critical and analytical examination of the electoral culture within Arab society, particularly focusing on the elections of Arab local authorities. These elections often perpetuate an unjust reality, prompting a collective exploration of alternative approaches. Among these alternatives was the consideration of boycotting elections within a context dominated by violence, crime, contentious electoral skirmishes, and the systemic exclusion of women, youth, and other vulnerable segments of society.



During the conference, we delved into the stances of both the Jusur Forum and Kayan, advocating for the option of voting with a blank ballot in local authority elections to protest the unjust realities perpetuated by these authorities, realities which include rampant discrimination and violence against women, the absence of qualified candidates deserving of our votes, and a lack of impartiality in the electoral process. The conference vehemently denounced violence, corruption, and nepotism, refusing to accept a status quo where women risk facing violence for exercising their voting rights.



The challenges encountered by women in public and political spheres, which served as the incentive for convening this conference, were thoroughly examined. The conference also presented the concept of boycott as a legitimate means of protest, shedding light on its potential to highlight the glaring disparity between the electoral influence of women and youth and their underrepresentation in local politics. Additionally, the conference presented compelling data showcasing the academic superiority of women, who comprise 64% of academic achievers compared to 34% of males. Despite this educational advantage, women continue to encounter significant structural and cultural barriers in society, where regressive ideologies regarding women persist.

During the conference, the short film "CLEAN Affiliation" was screened, offering a glimpse into public perceptions regarding the electoral culture and its influence on individual decision-making. The film poignantly illustrates that family holds the foremost position on the list of considerations for Arab voters.

As the conference drew to a close, a spirited debate ensued between two teams: one advocating for the boycott of elections, and the other advocating for voting despite the prevailing realities. Ultimately, victory was clinched by the latter team, underscoring their conviction in the efficacy of continued electoral participation within the existing framework.



Kayan on the Screen

Once a Month

Kayan's podcast, "Once a Month," remained consistent in its schedule, airing episodes in the first week of every month and featuring discussions led by specialists on topics pertinent to our society, with a particular focus on issues concerning women. This platform served as an invaluable means of outreach, reaching a broad audience unable to attend Kayan's in-person events. Moreover, the podcast facilitated conversations on topics that had previously received inadequate attention in the public sphere.

Some of standout episodes of 2023 were "Speak True," which delved into the intersectionality of feminism and national affiliation. This episode sparked significant discourse, shedding light on the nuanced relationship between these two concepts; the episode on sexual blackmail, offering insights on how to recognize and effectively address it when encountering it. Beyond this, the discussion extends to explore the complexities surrounding divorce, marriage and the diverse forms of separation, considering their profound impacts on both individuals and their children; the episode on enslavement and human trafficking, aiming to raise awareness about one of the most egregious forms of violence, highlighting

how criminals exploit individuals affected by poverty and occupation, coercing them into prostitution and human trafficking. Through this exploration, the episode endeavoured to shed light on the grim realities of exploitation and the urgent need for concerted efforts to combat such atrocities.



An Outstanding Achievement:

Best Film on The Right of Return

Our documentary "Jisr al-Awda" (Bridge of Return) made a significant impact at the al-Awda festival in May 2023, where it was honored with the award for Best Film on the Right of Return. Produced by Kayan and directed by Palestinian filmmaker Issam Ballan in 2022, the film serves as a vital contribution to documenting the Nakba, preserving our collective memory, and notably highlighting the often overlooked narratives of women. "Bridge of Return" intricately weaves together the experiences of Palestinian women from Safad and Beir al-Sabea during the Nakba, showcasing their resilience in the face of adversity and their crucial role in passing down their stories and commitments to future generations.

Winning this award holds profound significance, particularly coming from a festival that plays a pivotal role in affirming the Palestinian narrative and advocating for the Right of Return. The recognition received underscores the importance of supporting Palestinian cinema dedicated to truth and historical justice. Notably, "Bridge of Return" was also featured on the al-Mayadeen channel and continues to be showcased in festivals worldwide, including the recent Algerian festival "Palestinian Cinema Panorama," as well as local screenings, such as the one held at the Haifa Orthodox College Alumni Association.



Our Position is Clear

We stand against the war on Gaza, the war against our feelings and thoughts!

As a society, we collectively voice our grave concerns regarding the escalating symptoms of official fascism that are increasingly encroaching upon our freedoms. We adamantly demand an immediate halt to this relentless campaign. We caution against the perilous consequences, including the demonization of Palestinian communities within the 1948 borders, which could further exacerbate persecution and bloodshed.

The grim reality unfolds before our eyes, evident in the devastating toll exacted in Gaza, where tens of thousands have perished, and in the West Bank, where hundreds have lost their lives and thousands have been unjustly incarcerated since the onset of the war. Additionally, we condemn the alarming call by Ben Gvir to arm civilians in Israel, a move bolstered by the Ministry of



Justice's disconcerting endorsement, which legitimizes the suppression of dissenting voices that reject violence, injustice, and racism.

We unequivocally reject the senseless loss of innocent lives. There can be no justification for the brutality of war, with its attendant toll of death and displacement. We fervently call for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the relentless campaign of censorship and intimidation targeting our people, our beliefs, our sentiments, and our affiliations.



Statement by 'Fada' – Palestinians against Violence

As the aggression against Gaza persists, the Fada Coalition - Palestinians Against Violence, representing approximately 25 Palestinian feminist rights organizations and led by Kayan, issued a statement expressing the profound disappointment felt by civil Palestinian society towards governments complicit in these acts of violence. The statement decried the freezing of treaties and agreements that held the potential to alter the human dynamics and safeguard the lives of Gazans. It harshly criticized the inadequate performance of institutions that have proven incapable and ineffective in addressing the crisis.

The statement emphatically called upon governments to heed the will of their people and take decisive action to halt the atrocities committed against our people.

We refuse to merely issue hollow condemnations that do little to alleviate suffering or prevent further bloodshed. Instead, we express profound disappointment in human rights institutions for their betrayal of the very values and principles they purportedly uphold. This is not a statement of condemnation, but rather a firm rejection of their passive stance and their attempts to impose a narrative that undermines our plight.

As Palestinian societal and feminist institutions, we assume our responsibility with sincerity: What tangible actions have Western treaties, organizations, and political bodies taken to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people? Or are these values, purportedly universal, extended to us in the "Third World" solely through the channels of financial aid and military support? Are they packaged as projects and promises that offer little more than false hope while perpetuating the cycle of anger and despair?



نقف أمام مسؤوليتنا كمؤسسات مجتمعية ونسوية تدافع عن حقوق الإنسان الفلسطيني وعن النساء والنسوية الفلسطينية، التي لا يمكنها إلا أن تشمل الجميع أو لا تكون؛ لنسأل بصراحة: أين تلك المواثيق التي صاغها الغرب بصناديقه وجمعياته ومجالسه وهيئاته السياسية المختلفة مما يحدث لفلسطين؟! أم أنها تصدر إلينا نحن أهل "العالم الثالث" بالمال والسلاح، أو على شكل مشاريع وكلام في كلام، يمتص الغضب ويبيع الأمل دون رصيد.

Our Voice is Heard

On the International Women's Day of 2023, we produced a video in collaboration with our partner organization "EuroMed Rights", to aid our efforts towards attaining human rights for Palestinian women.

Digital Security Workshop

In collaboration with the Femina Foundation, we facilitated a comprehensive training session led by digital security expert Ahmed Hijab. The session focused on internet safety for activists, aiming to equip participants with the latest techniques and concepts to safeguard both their own information and that of their audience. In today's digital landscape, civil society organizations and feminist associations encounter escalating pressure, surveillance, and political persecution, all aimed at impeding their vital work.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

My Right to Defend My People

In response to the realities thrust upon us since October 7th, we had to recalibrate our campaign topics to demand a ceasefire and cessation of political violence. Despite operating within a landscape of persecution and limited freedom of speech, we marshaled our efforts accordingly. Our campaign addressed the profound impact of the war on Palestinian society within the 1948 borders, with a particular focus on women. We endeavored to support our society in confronting the new challenges it faces, utilizing various awareness-raising activities. These include workshops organized by women and youth groups across multiple Arab towns,



seminars conducted online, and an extensive media campaign spanning platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

Through these initiatives, we aimed to illuminate the constraints on freedom of expression, labor rights violations, unjust dismissals, political persecution campaigns, economic injustices, and psychological stresses endured within Israeli workplaces and educational systems.

Amidst the deafening clamor of war, the calls for collective genocide resonated louder than ever before, drowning out dissenting voices and muzzling opposition. In response, the initial phase of our campaign, "My Right to Defend My People," placed a spotlight on the fundamental rights of freedom of association and expression. Our aim was to amplify the voices that stood in opposition to injustice, advocating for the right to speak out against oppression and violence.

The second phase of our campaign focused on combating the looming threat of persecution campaigns, the presence of thought police, and loyalty enforcement measures prevalent in Israeli workplaces and educational institutions since October 7th. This phase was shaped by the overwhelming number of calls received by Kayan's support hotline, echoing the widespread reports of arbitrary dismissals and disciplinary actions stemming from political stances or social media posts. In response, we provided essential information about labor and educational rights to our audience, addressing the numerous daily complaints of political persecution in the workplace. Additionally, we urged those affected, both women and men, to reach out to our support hotline for legal consultation before taking any decisive actions.

The calls we received reflected a pervasive atmosphere of fear, anxiety, and stress across all segments of society, with concerns ranging from labor and education rights to instances of incitement and blackmail. Women, in particular, shared testimonies of postponing personal needs in the face of public anxiety. As a response, the final phase of our campaign underscored the critical importance of prioritizing both physical and mental well-being, especially during crises. We reminded women of the necessity of addressing their needs without delay and encouraged them to reach out to Kayan's support hotline or any other safe space for sharing and consultation.





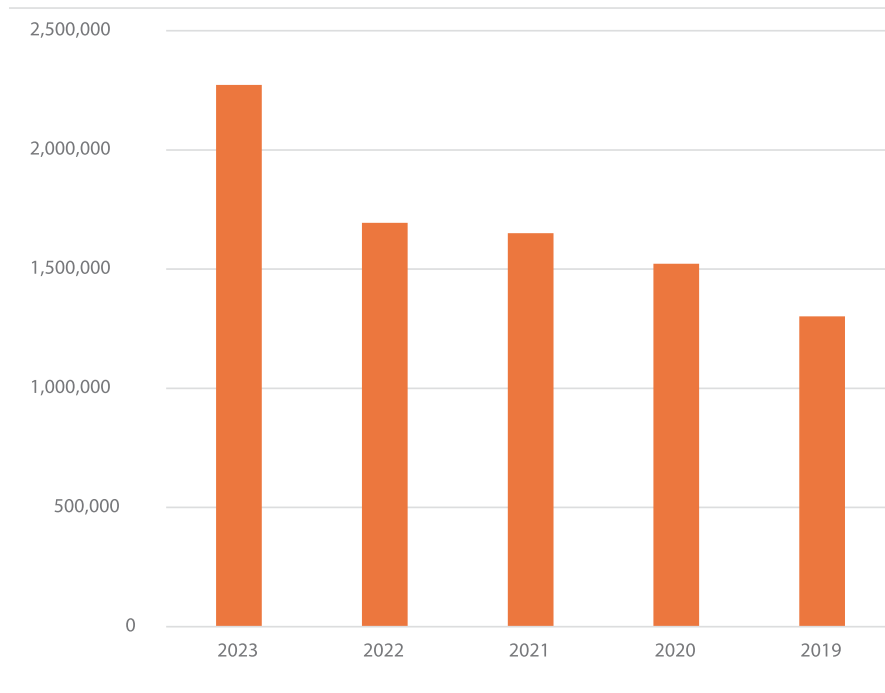
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women coincided with a brief ceasefire in the embattled Gaza Strip, offering a temporary respite from the relentless war that has ravaged the Strip since October 7th. In response, we issued a statement addressing the stifling constraints on freedom of expression, which deprived Kayan and other women's rights organizations of the ability to protest the dire situation facing women in Gaza. Despite these challenges, we reiterated our steadfast rejection of political violence and reaffirmed Kayan's unwavering commitment to seeking an end to the injustice endured by the people of Gaza.

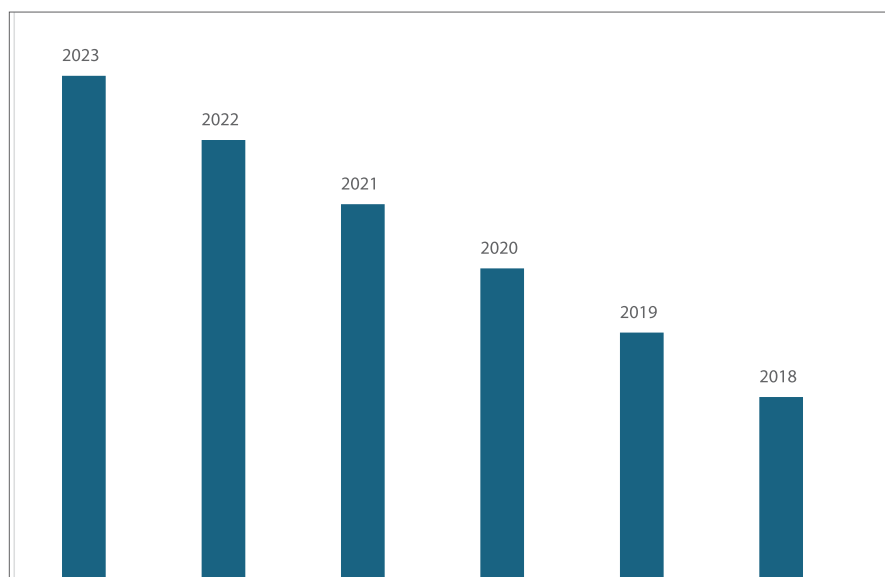
Moving forward, we will continue to advocate for greater international involvement and support from humanitarian organizations to aid both male and female survivors in overcoming the immense devastation. With hope and determination, we remain optimistic that our resilient people will soon emerge from this crisis and begin to rebuild their lives and communities.

Financial Report

Activity/Program Cost

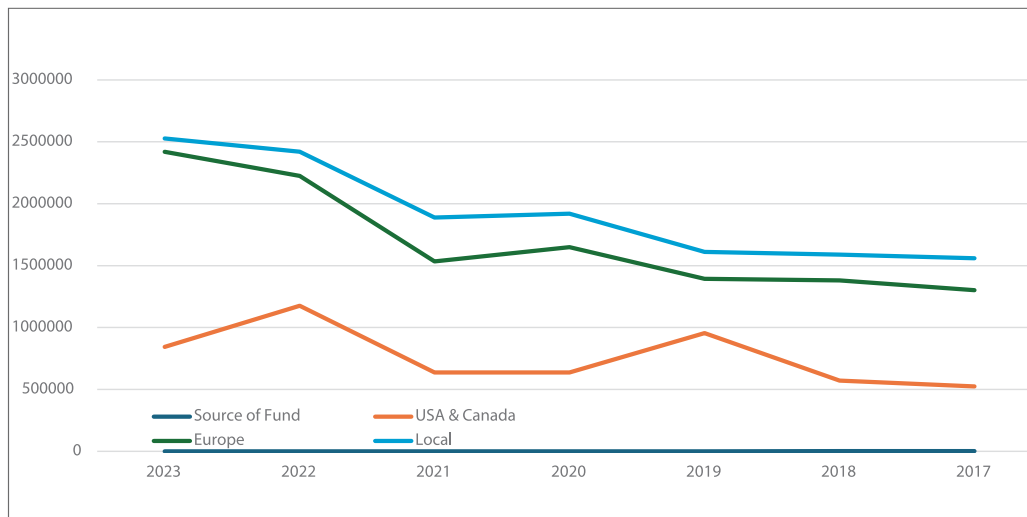


Admin Cost

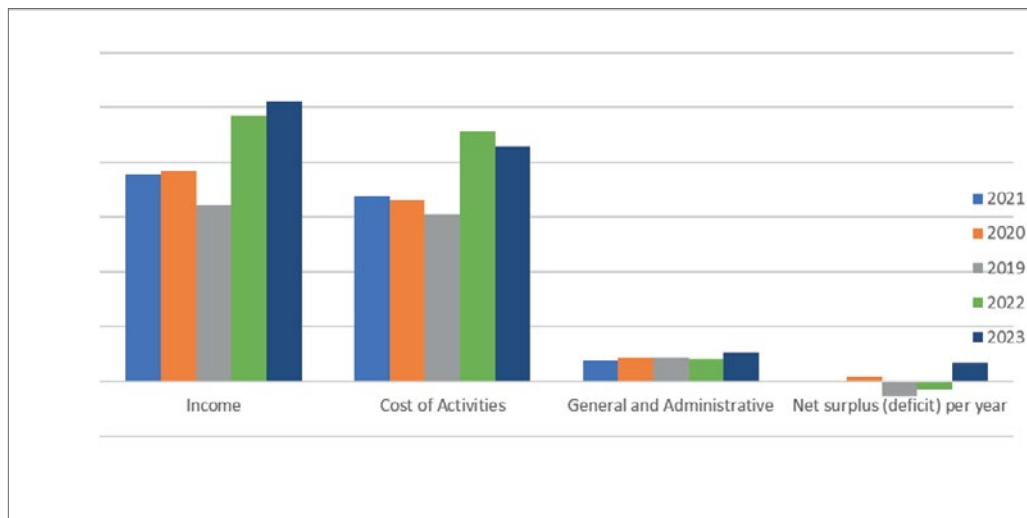




Source of Fund



Statement of Activity



Supporting Kayan

Our overarching aim is to enhance the abilities of our women and fortify our collective resilience, paving the way for the realization of our rights and the establishment of a just society. If this objective resonates with you, we invite you to join us in our mission by making a contribution to Kayan. Your donation will not only support our endeavors but also entitle you to a tax deduction equivalent to 35% of the donated amount, as Kayan holds a tax exemption certificate (Form 46).

Donations from generous supporters are crucial in helping us further our mission and vision of creating a secure and just society free of gender-based discrimination. Please consider making a donation to Kayan Feminist Organization in one of the following ways:

Bank Transfer

The First International Bank of Israel

#31 Branch #007

Account #105-552836

Komoi 1, Ziv Center Haifa, Israel

Credit or Debit Card

PayPal is a fast, secure way to donate to Kayan. For one-time or monthly donations, please visit our website at:

www.kayanfeminist.org/donate

GlobalGiving

Global Giving is another fast, secure way to donate to individual projects at Kayan. For one-time or monthly donations, please visit:

<https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/26365/kayan-feminist-organization/>

American, Canadian, and European donors can also make a tax-deductible contribution online through the New Israel Fund at:

<https://secure.nif.org/onlineactions/g94CeiEoiE-dvj3gy-zqA2>

Check

Tax-deductible contributions by check can be made payable to "New Israel Fund" and marked as donor-advised to Kayan in the memo line.



The checks can be mailed to the following addresses:

US donors:

New Israel Fund, 6 East 39th Street, Suite 301, New York, NY, 10016-0108

Canadian donors:

New Israel Fund, 801 Eglinton Ave. West, Suite 401, Toronto, Ontario, M5N 1E3

European donors:

New Israel Fund, St. James House, 10 Rosebery Ave., London, EC15 4TD

For more information, or for general inquiries, please contact us at:

info@kayanf.org

Round Up

A small contribution can help us continue serving our community and maintain the independency of our work.



Every time you charge your credit card, the amount is rounded

up to the nearest shekel, and the remaining Agorot are donated to Kayan.

For example: When you buy something for 24.70 NIS, you pay 25 NIS and donate 30 agorot to Kayan.

You can Round Up and donate agorot on the [link](#)



PayPal is a fast, safe way to donate money to Kayan - either through a one time or monthly donation.

[Donate Now!](#)

Thank you for your support!

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