

# **Revealing the reality of women's participation in the Palestinian security establishment and its impact on decision-making positions**

Prepared by: Amal Shaher Salameh Ghrouf

Supervisor: Dr. Nayef Jarrad

## **Abstract**

This study aimed at revealing the reality of women's participation in the Palestinian security establishment and its impact on decision-making positions. To achieve its objectives, the researcher used the analytical descriptive method. The research tools were a questionnaire designed specifically for this purpose, and interviews were held with a number of gender unit officials in the Palestinian security services and with specialized experts in this field.

The study population represented all females working in the Palestinian security establishment. The study population reached (1566) female employees, and the sample reached (520) (33%) of the total study population.

The study found several results, the most important of which is that the reality of women's participation in the security establishment is medium, and that the percentage of women holding leadership positions in the Palestinian security apparatuses is small and disproportionate to the number of those who join them. It was found that there is a high awareness among women of the importance of their participation and their role in decision-making in the security establishment.

The study also found that the most important obstacles to women's access to decision-making centers are obstacles such as male culture, customs and traditions, and women's lack of awareness about their legal rights and their leadership roles.

In light of the results, the study recommended the need for amendments to the Palestinian laws and legislation to reduce discrimination against women

and the need to harmonize these laws and legislations with the agreements, treaties and

Charters recently joined by the State of Palestine and with the relevant

Resolutions of the United Nations. Gender in the security services and the development of a comprehensive national plan to integrate gender concepts into Palestinian security policy, and that the responsible parties take measures that guarantee women's access to active participation in decision-making positions. The study also recommended working on further scientific and specialized researches on the integration of gender in the security establishment.

#### Keywords

Gender, Participation in Decision-Making, Palestinian Security Establishment.