



## The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH

### ABOUT MIFTAH

**MIFTAH** was established in 1998 as an independent Palestinian civil society institution committed to fostering the principles of democracy and effective dialogue. **MIFTAH's** main work during its beginning was on political concerns especially opening dialogue on final status issues, disseminating the Palestinian narrative on regional and international levels in addition to working on the local and national levels to support building the Palestinian state.

Ever since its establishment and especially after the fall of the Camp David peace negotiations in 2000, **MIFTAH** was dedicated to Palestinian nation-building and empowerment on the basis of the principles of democracy, human rights, rule of law, and participatory governance. **MIFTAH** was one of the first Palestinian NGOs to realize the importance of institution building and democracy to ensure state building, in parallel with the political process, after the failure in the peace talks and the invasion of the West Bank that followed. In support of good governance and democracy, **MIFTAH** used to and continues to influence public policy formulation for safeguarding citizens' rights and enhance justice and rule of law with a special focus on marginalized segments of Palestinian society especially women and youth.

**MIFTAH's** political impartiality has turned it into a well-reputed and well-respected organization, hence, it provides a safe place for male and female political activists, leaders, members of local councils, Palestinian Legislative Council, Palestinian Political Factions, and Community-Based Organizations and public institutions to exchange information and engage in constructive dialogue to enhance multichannel communication among all sectors of society, with the view of supporting policy formulation, addressing policy recommendations and policy proposals.

### VISION

A sovereign, independent, democratic, tolerant and inclusive Palestinian state, which grants Palestinians their basic rights, preserves their dignity, and enjoys international recognition and respect.

### MISSION

Established in Jerusalem, **MIFTAH** seeks to promote the principles of democracy and good governance within various components of Palestinian society; it further seeks to engage local and international public opinion and official circles on the Palestinian cause. To that end,



**MIFTAH** adopts the mechanisms of an active and in-depth dialogue, the free flow of information and ideas, as well as local and international networking.

## CORE VALUES

- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Credibility
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Objectivity
- ✓ Independence
- ✓ Professionalism and work ethics
- ✓ Participation and inclusiveness
- ✓ Non discrimination
- ✓ Equality and Gender responsiveness

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### Strategic Goal:

To contribute to enacting the rule of law and realizing the Palestinian aspiration of self-determination and independence.

### Specific Objectives:

- ❖ **Specific Objective 1:** Enhanced policies and practices in line with civil rights and social justice in Palestine
- ❖ **Specific Objective 2:** Enhanced promotion of the Palestinian narrative at the international level
- ❖ **Specific Objective 3:** Improved effective institutional and human capacity development

## GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

MIFTAH operates in areas covering the whole of the West Bank and Gaza Strip through its main office located in Ramallah and field office in Gaza, in close coordination with active field coordinators assigned in seven districts within the West Bank. More precisely, MIFTAH expands its activities to cover the most marginalized areas in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including east Jerusalem) and Area C.

## SCOPE OF WORK AND PROGRAMS



To achieve the Strategic Goal and Specific Objectives, MIFTAH works within two main programs:

❖ **Good Governance and Democracy Program:**

This program works towards enhancing policies and practices in line with civil rights and social justice in Palestine through identifying pressing key policies and procedures that require amendments, reform or formulation of new policies and legislations within MIFTAH's areas of intervention. These policies and legislations are revised based on international human rights conventions and MIFTAH's core values. This program relies on three main pathways: fostering national dialogue and policy formulation, research and documentation, and empowerment of MIFTAH's constituencies (mainly youth and women).

❖ **Communication and Public Diplomacy Program**

This program aims at an enhanced promotion of the Palestinian narrative at the international level. This program relies on two main pathways: continuously develop, formulate, and present content of the Palestinian public discourse on the ongoing political situation; while the second pathway focuses on engaging in international advocacy. The formulation of the content relies on international law that clearly illustrates the violations committed against the Palestinian people and does not compromise the basic human rights or the Palestinian aspiration for self-determination and independence.

## AREAS OF INTERVENTION

### Women Political Participation

**MIFTAH** places a great focus on women empowerment especially in regards to political participation and enhancing women representation in decision making positions and within the political system at the national and local government levels through; supporting women potential candidates to run for local and national elections, raising citizens' awareness on women political participation and active citizenship, empowering women leadership role within local government organizations, carrying out analytical research on gaps identified within the election laws and legislation that hinder women participation and representation in elections, and providing policy recommendations and proposals for laws amendments and adjustment to enhance women political participation.

### Youth Empowerment

**MIFTAH's** work on political participation includes youth, placing a great support for their representation in decision making positions and within their political factions. **MIFTAH** focuses on supporting youth political leadership in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be well prepared to take on political roles and to become involved in political



and public spheres. Additionally, MIFTAH through its Narrative Ambassadors Program recruits Palestinian students travelling abroad and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to narrate the events in Palestine in a factual, accurate and convincing manner.

### **Women Peace and Security**

**MIFTAH** works on women protection and participation, in line with UNSCR 1325 and the general comments 30, 32 and 35 of CEDAW and other relevant UN resolutions and human rights conventions. **MIFTAH** played a leading role in the realization of Women Peace and Security Agenda in Palestine through; the formation of local coalition for the implementation of UNSCR1325 and then the formation of the National Coalition and defining its vision and strategic and advocacy plan, supporting the formulation of the Agenda and building consensus on the Palestinian women demands based on adoption of CEDAW conventions, providing an inclusive dialogue sphere that supports women to hold decision makers accountable for the violations committed against women and building networks and alliances at the regional and international levels to present women demands for protection at the international level.

### **Women Protection from GBV**

**MIFTAH** works on promoting gender equality and equity including protection against gender-based violence within a policy framework through; addressing recommendations at both policy and legislative level, fostering dialogue on addressing sexual violence related to absence of national protection policies and services for survivors of sexual violence and crimes, mobilizing religious and community leaders for promoting protection of sexual and reproductive health rights including protection from gender based violence, and enhancing the role of media in public campaigning on gender based violence and sexual violence.

### **Fiscal Justice**

**MIFTAH** promotes access to justice and safeguarding citizens' rights within fiscal policies through taking a leading role in institutionalization of transparency and accountability measures within ministries, enhancing social justice within the Tax system in Palestine, building networks and alliances among regional and international networks in public campaigning for enhancing fiscal justice and conducting policy meetings to engage public servants, policy makers with civil society organizations to promote transparency and accountability related fiscal policies.

### **Promotion of Human Rights**



**MIFTAH** works towards enhancing implementation of human rights instruments, mainly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the occupied State of Palestine through; building the capacity of a group of Palestinian youth media and law graduates and Palestinian community-based and civil society organizations to monitor and document human rights violations perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces and those incurred due to gaps in Palestinian legislative framework, opening dialogue with national and international stakeholders to identify practical steps to promote protection of the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized social groups and organizing advocacy efforts through mobilizing youth to present the violations Palestinians are subjected to before national and international platforms in order to hold occupation authorities accountable to violations perpetrated against Palestinians.

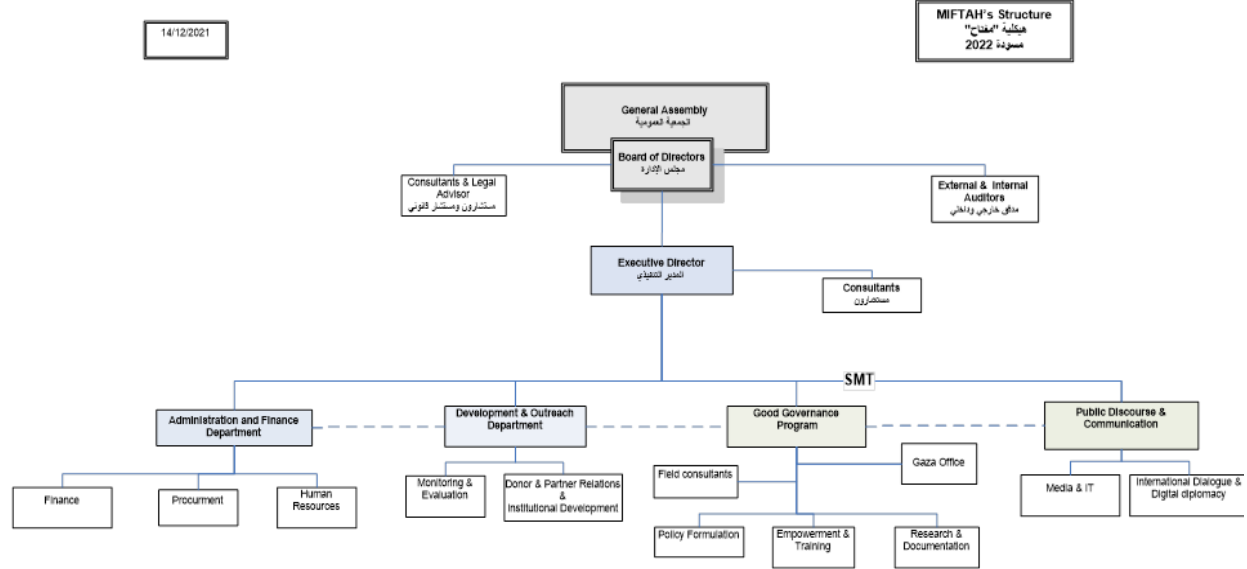
### **Palestinian Narrative**

**MIFTAH** continues to contribute to the promotion of and increasing awareness about the Palestinian narrative at the global level (Global Dialogue) through; hosting international delegations, conducting briefings and discussion sessions, holding meetings with diplomatic missions, developing “Facts and Figures” offering specific information on subjects related to the Palestinian condition, Palestinian-Israeli conflict and final status issues, shedding light on critical political opinions, drafting political statements, position papers, interviews with political figures, reports and studies, and factsheets to bolster solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

### **Political Dialogue**

**MIFTAH** aims at reviving the national internal dialogue on timely political issues through holding policy dialogue sessions to enhance multichannel communication among all sectors of society, including political leaders, government, and civil-society organizations. The sessions are held with the view of following up on upcoming political issues, through engaging politicians, academics, ministers and decision-makers in open and candid exchange of information and ideas.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Board of Directors

- ✓ Dr. Hanan Ashrawi – Chairperson
- ✓ Nour Odeh - Deputy
- ✓ Dr. Azmi Shuaibi - Treasurer
- ✓ Hania Bitar - Secretary
- ✓ Dr. Lily Feidy - Member
- ✓ Tami Rafidi - Member
- ✓ Abdul Qader Hussein - Member
  
- ✓ Tarek Aggad
- ✓ Salem Barahmeh
- ✓ Yousef Dajani
- ✓ Honaida Ghanem
- ✓ Manal Hazzan
- ✓ Khalil Jahshan
- ✓ Samer Khoury
- ✓ Ruba Masrouji
- ✓ George Salem
- ✓ Hashim Shawwa
- ✓ Raji Sourani
- ✓ Ola Awad



- ✓ Rima Hammami
- ✓ Sabih Masri
- ✓ Ghassan Khatib
- ✓ Khalid Kaloti

## NETWORKS AND ADVOCACY

**MIFTAH is a founding member** of AMAN Coalition (The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity-AMAN) and has been a member ever since.

**MIFTAH is a co-founder in** the Palestinian Women National Coalition for the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

**MIFTAH** is in special consultative status with the UN- Economic and Social Council since 2020

### **MIFTAH is an active member in:**

- ✓ The Civil Society Coalition for Amending the Penal Law,
- ✓ Al-Muntada (NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women),
- ✓ Al-Muntada (Forum for Gender and Local Governance),
- ✓ The Civil Society Team for Public Budget Transparency (CSTPBT),
- ✓ The National Committee for Palestinian Women's Employment,
- ✓ The Higher National Committee for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325
- ✓ The non-Governmental Women Coalition for the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- ✓ The Coalition for the Protection of Women from the Dangers of Unsafe Abortion
- ✓ The National Campaign for Minimum Wage
- ✓ The Civil Coalition for Control of the Legislative Process
- ✓ The Civil Coalition for Promoting Civil Peace and the Rule of Law
- ✓ The Civil Society Coalition for the Monitoring of Elections Financing
- ✓ The Arab Regional Network on Women, Peace, and Security- El Karama