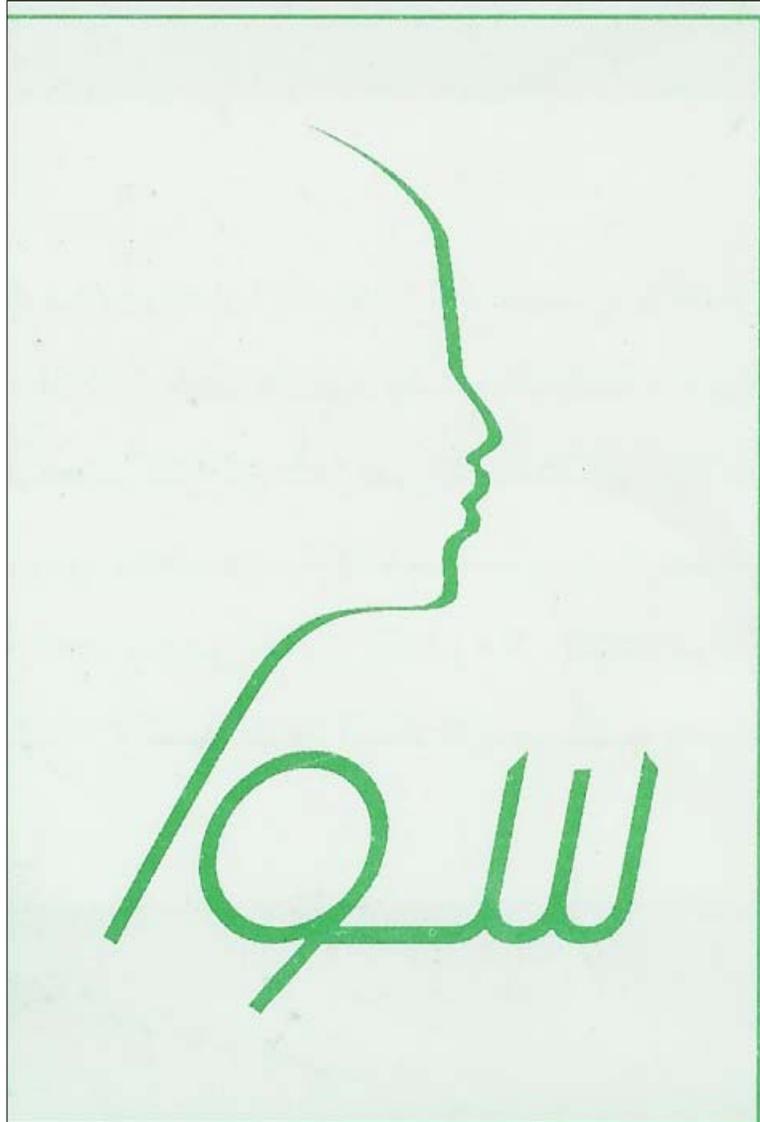


**Sawa- All the Women Together, Today and Tomorrow**

**سوا- كل النساء معاً اليوم وغدا**



**Annual Report 2005**

**Dear Friends,**

We are proud to present Sawa- All the Women Together, Today and Tomorrow's first ever Annual Report. Sawa has been in existence since 1998, but only in recent years have we felt that we have matured into the organization we always dreamed of becoming, providing desperately-needed help for Palestinian women and children who have been victim to Sexual Domestic Violence.

Today, as a result of our outreach efforts, we are glad that more and more women are approaching us, as are children and youth as the result of our outreach in local schools.

Sawa is also proud to be the current chairing organization of the Al-Muntada Forum of Palestinian NGO's Against Violence, enabling us to unite in our activities to rid Palestinian Society of violence against women.

There remains much work to be done, and we hope to continue in our endeavours with your kind support. Thank you for choosing to share in our vision.

Sincerely,

Ohaila Shomar,  
Director



*Ohaila Shomar, alongside Palestinian Supreme Court Judge Assad Mubarak and Palestinian Minister of Women's Affairs Zahira Kamal, at Sawa's First International Conference on Women Killings in Ramalla, December 2005*

## **SAWA at a glance...**

*SAWA, All the Women Together Today and Tomorrow* was established as a non-profit organization in 1998 to raise awareness about the issue of sexual and domestic violence within the Palestinian community. The objective is to prevent, empower, support, aid, and educate Palestinian society about the different forms of physical, domestic and sexual violence, to decrease its disturbing prevalence among youth, women and men.

**Sawa Board of Directors 2005:** Lemees Sheikh Suleiman, Malak Masri, Seham Rashed Odeh, Raymounda Mansour, Haia Sarsour

In 2005, Sawa employed a **Director**, an **Outreach and Education Director**, (Full Time) a **Supervising Psychologist**, and **Schools and Community Coordinator**, an **Administrator**, a **Bookkeeper**, and a **Resource Development Officer** (Part Time) as well as two freelance **Project Managers**.

**2005 Total Annual Operating Budget:**

**Services (*today and tomorrow*):**

- **24 hour crisis hotline (>900 calls received in 2005)**
- **Meeting with girls and women who choose to report offenders**
- **Filing hospital and police reports**
- **Accompaniment of girls and women to police stations, hospitals and clinics**
- **Maintaining professional files on victims of sexual violence**
- **Networking and coordinating with community based organizations**
- **Advertising, issuing, and disseminating awareness materials**
- **Awareness workshops and lectures (Designing, Training, Facilitation in institutions and schools)**

## Outreach - Spreading the Word...

In the past year we at SAWA have taken active and effective steps towards promoting and advertising our center and all of the *statistically confirmed* positive ways that it can help women.

**Purpose of Outreach:** To disseminate information, promote awareness, and extinguish the myths surrounding sexual violence

### Awareness Raising Campaign

- **3 Radio Spots** - 50 seconds each to inform on the definitions of sexual violence, victims, and perpetrators. Broadcasted on Radio "Ajyal" reaching Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron and more over 6 months, three times per day.
- **6 Radio Programs** - made for educational purposes and facilitated by Radio Ajyal, the programs featured guests such as psychologists and lawyer to debate sexual violence topics. Broadcasted between April and June 2005 for about an hour each.
- **Website** - Made by "Visuals Active Media", features educational topics on sexual violence and contact information and services of SAWA.
- **Adverts** - Weekly printed adverts notifying Sawa's services, especially the Crisis Line Phone number. Featured in "Al Ayam" newspaper once a week from December to February 2005.
- **Brochures** - 1000 copies of hotline brochures were disseminated throughout the country.
- **Stickers** - 3000 stickers advertising the hotline phone number were posted throughout the country.

"This awareness raising campaign has proved highly successful. We have seen a direct correlation between the dissemination of this information through our outreach and the amount of calls to the Sawa hotline"

*Imam Qassis, Sawa Director of Outreach and Education*

## Special Events 2005

### **Sawa screens “Soraida – A Woman of Palestine” – a film by Tahani Rached- for local audiences**

In March 2005, marking International Women’s Day Sawa arranged several notable screenings in various locations in and around Jerusalem and Ramallah, to raise awareness of the status of women in Palestine and the effects of the occupation on Palestinian Women. Local Women’s Rights Activist Soraida Abed Hussein graciously attended all showings of the film, and answered questions from the audience following each screening.



*Taking us into the daily existence of Soraida, her family and neighbours, the film compels us to ask fundamental questions. How can the Palestinians preserve their humanity while living under the Occupation?*

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### **First Palestinian Conference on “Honor Killing” of Women December 2005**

#### ***Women’s Killing: A Condemned Reality, an Obstacle, and a Challenge to Development***

In order to organize the event, a steering committee was appointed, comprising Ms. Soraida Abed Hussein, Dr. Fadwa Al Labade, Prof. Muhammad Al Haj-Yahia, Dr. Lamees Abu Nahleh, Ms. Malak Al-Masri, and Ms. Ohaila Showar. Committee members worked together with SAWA staff for 2 months prior to the conference under the auspices of Esperanza Mahmoud Abed Hussein, Conference Coordinator. Advertisements for the event were emailed as memos, sent out in invitation form to 40 people via mail and fax, displayed in three different newspapers (Al-Quds, Al-Hayyat, Al-Ayam), and aired through radio ads (on Radio Amwaj).

One hundred and fifty nine people attended the conference and translations in English were provided for non-Arabic speakers to accommodate all participants.

Both local and foreign journalists attended the event as well. For the convenience of the participants, conference packs were provided, which included cloth bags with a dossier of Conference Program (in English and Arabic), papers presented at conference, blank pages for notes, Conference-Logo Pen, SAWA brochure, and an Al Muntada Anti-Violence Sticker.

Despite the fact that the Qalandia Checkpoint was closed unexpectedly (this was the main thoroughfare to get to conference), as well as the unexpected large turnout, and the Minister of Women's Affairs' early departure from the event, we were able to accommodate everyone and the conference was a success.

SAWA has remained in contact with all conference participants as well as the many students and others who have requested materials and invites to future events. Information from the conference as well as from subsequent requests has been reported as informative, and has raised awareness and made it possible to open the topic discussion to many people.



"Yes To Life, No To Killing"

- Stickers distributed at the Sawa conference.

## ***Al-Muntada (Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Against Domestic Violence Against Women) Forum Activities***

Sawa assumed revolving chairmanship of the Al-Muntada Coalition in January 2005. Al-Muntada was established in 2000 in order to combat the all-too pervasive issue of violence against women in Palestinian society. Al-Muntada is a collaboration of 13 non-governmental organizations across the West Bank and Gaza and aims to confront violence against women in every sector of Palestinian life.

The Al-Muntada Forum held a multi-level, high profile campaign around November 25<sup>th</sup>, the International day that condemns Violence against Women. The purpose was to:

- hear Palestinian female voices
- demanding authorities, society and world deal with these crimes
- demand that perpetrators and supporters be dealt with gravity for their crimes

### **Joint Women's Activities during International Domestic Violence Week (November 25 - December 10):**

Activists pitched a Protest Tent which attracted extensive media coverage. They also sponsored an Honor Killing Outreach Campaign which consisted of 7 workshops throughout the West Bank and Gaza. 6000 stickers, 1000 posters, 600 t-shirts, and 15 banners with different slogans were printed to advertise for the event. TV spots broadcasted adverts to ten local stations and a press conference also helped to advertise. Although ongoing conflict in the area hindered efforts and affected the events, there seems to be a significant positive impact. Families of the last 3 victims of Femicide have released a press statement, which demonstrates an increase of awareness on the issue. Al-Muntada hopes to continue and expand its activities with the help of generous supporters such as OXFAM Quebec.

### **Why must we continue?**

Although we certainly consider our efforts successful in disseminating information and increasing awareness, **another woman was murdered in the area just a few days later.**

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Sawa acknowledges our supporters for their partnership and their generosity in 2005:

**The Representative Office of Finland, Ramallah  
Bread for the World  
The Irish Government Representatives, West Bank  
Oxfam Canada  
Sawa International Members (Anonymous)**

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To donate towards Sawa's ongoing activities and projects, please contact:

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Or contact the Resource Development Department directly via email:

[development@sawa.ps](mailto:development@sawa.ps)

All contributions are greatly appreciated!

