

ANNUAL

REPORT

2018

SAWA ORGANIZATION



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17 COURSES

In professional trainings

80 PROFESSIONALS

Children

1,344

children in workshops

14 NEW

VOLUNTEERS

133 MEN

Attended Sawa's workshops

16,024

Documented Calls on 121 Helpline

WOMEN

2,204

Took part in workshops

225,000

Likes on Facebook



Vision

To become a change catalyst for a Palestinian society that combats all types of violence and abuse against women and children

Mission

Sawa is a leading Palestinian organization, established in 1998, dedicated to providing support, protection and psycho-social counseling for survivors of violence and offering community awareness outreach services. The priority is to combat all types of violence, abuse and neglect against women and children. It networks with community stakeholders to spread values of humanity and gender equality for the creation of a safer society and a decent life for all Palestinians.



Organizational Values

HUMANITY

We stand for respecting and preserving human rights and dignity for all members of our society

EQUALITY

We believe in diversity and work against discrimination in all of its kinds

CHANGE

We work on the creation of societal transformations for enhancing good citizenship and for breaking silence, passivity and surrender

TRUST

We treasure ethical conduct and highly value openness and transparency

A message from the Founder



This year has been both successful and full of development for the future of Sawa. We were able to influence the lives of thousands of individuals from all areas of Palestine to give the opportunity to many to express their feelings, whether at workshops, via the 121 Helpline, or at the Counseling Center. Through various campaigns on GBV, domestic violence, and the advocating for the family protection bill, Sawa reached 500,000 views on Facebook across different demographics in the Arab world.

Our year closed with Sawa's Annual Conference titled "What You Don't Know About Pedophilia". This conference touched on topics relevant to the Palestinian society and can be considered taboo by some, which is important we shed light on these issues as to create a society that is more aware of the negativities and consequences to be careful as well.

This report will present the broad details of Sawa's successes during the year, especially in continuing the provisions of our services after the donor chart priorities changed from donors to Palestine. We thank all of our partners, new and old, our supporters, and our employees and volunteers without whom 2018 would not have been a success.

With my greatest appreciation,

Ohaila Shomar

Sawa's Programs

Sawa's 121 listening Center Helpline is a toll free call center that operates through a professional, well trained team of social counselors to provide psycho-social, legal and health support for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and more.

The Educational and Social Awareness Program Sawa works to raise awareness toward the reduction of all types of violence and abuse against women and children, family education, and sex education. We do this through workshop, and awareness lectures for all sectors of societies, with numerous programs for professionals in addition to awareness campaigns, and periodic reports on the prevention of all forms of violence.

The Psycho-Social and Sexual and Reproductive Health Mobile Clinics the Clinics brings Sawa's services to distant and marginalized communities and areas adjacent to the apartheid wall from awareness raising workshops to home visits and provision of supplies for basic medicinal needs.

The 'Let's Talk!' Program bridges the gap of communication between parents and children in order to create dialog based on respect for human rights and children's rights. This program is also used as a model for parenthood.

The Face-to-Face Counseling Center is a specialized center providing psycho-social counseling for people all age groups to cope with different areas of life such as family, school, work, etc. This center is operated by a team specialized in social and psychological counseling and provides confidential private sessions.

The Volunteer Program is designed to attract university students and graduates who seek to develop their professional skills and capacities. They are trained as volunteers and contribute to conducting Sawa's programs. Training occurs over 110 hours, followed by 220 hours of voluntary work in the Listening Center and the Education and Social Awareness-Raising Program.



Accomplishments 2018

Listening Center The volunteers and employees at our Listening Center have given their all to provide counseling and psychological support to anyone in the Palestinian community with the need for it.

During 2018, they have handled 16,024 cases (this does not account the following-up cases, which would make the number much higher), 7,052 females and 8,972 males (60% of cases were from the Gaza Strip). Sawa has also worked to develop the Helpline which now has expanded to provide support through chat counseling, along with the safe and secure phone and e-mail counseling.

The documentation of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) has been improved in the specificity of marking what category the caller is seeking help or referral on. The categories are: abuse and violence (50% of all cases) discrimination, family relationships, information request, legal matter, mental and psycho-social, peer relationships, physical health, school related matters, sexual matters and special needs.

This is important in documentation so when Sawa looks over the reports we can see what demographic areas are facing most problems with, and target those areas with workshops around the needs of that geographical location.

Counseling Center For the fourth consecutive year of operation, the Counseling Center has offered treatment and 88 counseling sessions to 110 females. The trend in individuals coming to the counseling center were victims of violence and/or abuse.

Sawa organized four Women Empowerment Groups for Palestinian women, in Silwan in East Jerusalem, in Abu Dis, Beit Safafa and Isawiya. Silwan had 15 women participants and Abu Dis had 17 women participants, Beit Safafa had 16 women participate, and lastly Isawiya had 6 women participate for a total of 54 women participating and benefitting from the 44-session WEG's. Topics discussed included: teenager changes in terms of physical, sexual, psychological and social, violence in general, sexual violence, sexual violence on children and teenagers, sexual violence in the family and at work, as well as domestic violence, cyber-bullying, HIV/AIDS along with debriefing sessions with a focus on womens' bodies and health with self-care.





Education, Awareness and Training Sawa conducts workshops to strengthen and support the capacities of women on related to gender-based violence, and empower them to share their knowledge with other women in their areas. In addition, these meetings help them escape the psychological pressures they live under, and give them space to decompress and express themselves. During 2018, 588 women took part in Sawa's Awareness Raising Workshops in different areas.

Beyond the Awareness Raising Workshops targeting women, a total of 59 men participated in 20 workshops and mobile clinic activities in becoming catalysts of change in the fight against SGBV. The information provided to men was about sexual and reproductive health as well as on rape, family violence, emotional violence, and physical violence. We noticed at first that many of the men were not excited about these topics, but after the first session they actually asked us to return. Either way we were going to continue carrying out the workshops but it was good to see that the men themselves were interested in the continuation of these discussions.

Sawa's Mobile Clinic Sawa reached out to 1,616 women and 74 men for a total of 1,690 individuals with awareness raising information as well as psycho-social support in various remote areas within Area C. The topics were about sexual reproductive health, gestational diabetes and breast cancer, pregnancy and menopause, as well as sexual and gender based violence. The result gather from speaking to the women and looking over the evaluation questionnaires was that many women were satisfied with the information gather, and several went forth to get testing for breast cancer, hypertension, and other medical examinations. The Mobile Clinic reached the areas of: Ematien, Far'ata, Qusra, Falamia, Hableh, Ein Shibly, Deir Al-Hatab, Far'aa Camp, Aqaba, Rafat, Deir Ballut.





We also introduced the various services available in local society to facilitate communication and networking. We followed up with the professionals and held recreational sessions to reduce the stress and pressure they experience in the course of their work. The Professional Committee meets weekly throughout the entire year, in order to discuss general matters related to the Listening Center, and take decisions regarding interventions for the most difficult cases at the Center.

Children's workshops Using creative methods such as films and theater Sawa's awareness workshops in various areas, in schools and women's and community centers, in addition to other participatory, educational, and relaxation activities. We contributed greatly to educating children on the basic information about their rights, the different types of violence, sex education, internet bullying, AIDS and the 121 Listening Center. The play "Doso" is one of the most popular plays Sawa performs during workshops for children. It presents the issue of sexual harassment and emphasizes the importance of saying "No!" with strength and confidence when they feel uncomfortable with words or a touch or another act. The play also emphasized the need to share the problem with a trusted adult when one faces any problem. In addition, we let the children know they can call the 121 Helpline. During 2018, we held 70 child specific awareness raising sessions with a total of 1,334 children benefitting (375 girls and 959 boys).



Volunteer Program Sawa places great importance on its volunteers, making them one of the most important areas of focus. Sawa received 81 curriculum vitae of individuals

interested in volunteering. After interviewing the applicants, Sawa accepted 20 individuals after the interviews, and 14 volunteers, 1 male and 13 female, completely finished the training. The volunteers now are capable and able to facilitate workshops for women, men, and children, help with the mobile clinic activities as well as operate the helpline.

16-Days of Activism and White Ribbon Campaign Throughout this campaign, we held 8 workshops and 158 beneficiaries, 138 women and 20 men through our mobile clinic workshops, school workshops, and university workshops. We also held a “White Ribbon Campaign” at Birzeit University where 59 male students signed our pledge to never be silent when women are victims of abuse, as well as to never be the abuser. Students held a campus wide information booth to disperse the Sawa brochures titled “Sexual Abuse in the Workplace” and “Violence and Sexual Abuse Against Women”, as well as t-shirts to the male students who volunteered to gather pledge signatures and pass out white ribbons to those who pledged. It was intended to hold the White Ribbon campaign in 2 other colleges, but due to finals being in that exact week, the only university which did not have finals and allowed us to host this campaign was Birzeit University. Our global Facebook campaign included informative videos, cartoons, pictures, and opened space for a largely unspoken about topic through our strong social media platform. During the time of the 16-Days of Activism Campaign, as well as until the end of December 2018, we reached 300,334 people using info graphs and other items shared to raise awareness on GBV especially in the workplace. Moreover, even after we also aired 128 radio spots on Nisaa FM broadcasting different stories of abuse as well as ways to reach out for help using the 121 Helpline. Throughout this campaign, we received many negative comments on posts that described or depicted women being abused at home, in the workplace, etc. We posted a comment showing our solidarity with the fight against violence against women, and instructed people to not comment unless they have something positive to say.



Professional Training Among Sawa's goals is to increase the awareness and skills to work with victims of violence among the sectors of society most likely to interact with them professionally as part of their various areas of expertise. We are also endeavoring to strengthen the partnerships among organizations in Palestinian society, to make our work with victims of violence proceed more smoothly. Sawa continued to hold to monthly meetings especially for 13 professionals, 8 female and 5 male, with capacity building and professional guidance. The professionals who attended were from: Future School, UNRWA, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Family Protection Unity (general prosecution office), Family Protection Unit (police unit), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Development, Preventative Security Unit, General Prosecution Office, Cyber Crime Unit, and World Vision.



Sawa also hosted a workshop for the British Consulate Representative Office and SIDA where 15 women attend and gained knowledge on sexual violence and VAWG. We also held a special workshop for just the British Consulate Office where 7 women and 8 men attended and learned about implementing gender equality and SGBV. Moreover, a 21-hour workshop was conducted for the cyber-crime unit of the police, where they learned case management skills regarding cases of harassment and abuse which take place online. A total of 15 people attended, 9 women and 6 men. In December, Sawa held 5-hour workshop for legal professionals, from the Palestinian General Prosecutor's Office and UNRWA employees, which included 22 in total, 13 females and 9 males.

Sawa in the Media Sawa enjoys an important position in society with regard to media outlets, as an organization specialized in topics relate to violence and active in this work. It has a large influence on the lives of many in our society, and, thus, the media has shed light on many of the organization's activities. Sawa works to spread awareness through various available methods, especially on social media such as Facebook. We discuss topics and news related to Palestinian society, and the overall concern of violence against women and children. During 2018, the number of "likes" on Sawa's Facebook page reached 224,671, with 223,777 people following the page. Moreover, Sawa has now become a Facebook Trusted Partner which allows any victims of harassment or cyber abuse to report the perpetrator to Sawa's Review Committee which can report any case of violence or abuse to Facebook HQ and have the issue resolved within 48 hours. In normal circumstances, submitting a complaint to Facebook or the Palestinian Authority takes 6-8 weeks for the issue to be resolved.

Sawa participated in interviews on the radio and on television. Interviews on the radio were included on 24-FM, as well as Nisaa-FM with a 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week

inclusion in a radio talk show to speak out about Sawa and our various activities. In talk shows, Sawa participated in various interviews, of which include: BBC, Palestinian National TV, Falasteeniya, TV Al Quds Al Terbawi, TV Al Quds and Al-Fajr. Sawa is interested in reaching as wide a swathe of society as possible, to spread our message of combating violence against violence against women and children in Palestinian Society, and educating them about their rights. In particular, we mention the Palestinian Women's and Children's Protection Helpline 121, which gives preliminary psychological counseling and support to violence victims. The organization is eager to keep aware of developments in new communications technologies in order to reach its goals.

Development and Guidance for Professionals Sawa's employees and volunteers from all programs take part in individual and group psychological support sessions, and receive professional support. This is provided by the Counseling Supervisor each week, and meetings are held on a more intensive basis during times of emergency.

Annual Conference In December, Sawa held a grand scale public event titled "What You Don't Know About Pedophilia". The topics covered included general overview of pedophilia, the effects children/victims encounter, sexual exploitation of children, child sex tourism (ECPAT), sexual abuse committed against young adults, and cybercrimes which adults commit children. 124 individuals attended the event, which was held on Monday, December 17th, 2018, and the daylong event consisted of 7 individual prominent guest speakers from the Palestinian society. The situation in Palestine at the time was very turbulent and many road closures around Ramallah inhibited more people from attending the conference. We also streamed the conference live on Facebook for guests that were not able to attend; and through this there were 1,577 viewers through our Facebook page.



Future Plans Sawa will work during the next years on continuously combating various forms and levels of violence practiced against women and children and any other marginalized groups in Palestinian society and to raise issues of violence, abuse and neglect as public issues. We also hope spread our provision of psycho-social counseling via the 121 Helpline to international scopes to help even refugees and women to be empowered.

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