



مركز شؤون المرأة - غزة
Women's Affairs Center - Gaza



**Research Paper Titled:
Reality of Widows During the War on Gaza Strip
(2023-2024)**



مركز شؤون المرأة - غزة
Women's Affairs Center - Gaza

**Research Paper Titled:
Reality of Widows During the War on Gaza Strip
(2023-2024)**

2024

Contents:

Summary	3
Introduction	4
Research Paper Objectives	4
Methodology	4
Research Paper Tools	5
Findings	5
Violence Against Widows	8
Lack of Privacy	8
Key Findings	8
Recommendations	12
Sources and References	13

Reality of Widows During the War on Gaza Strip (2023-2024)

Summary:

The paper aims to address the repercussions of the war launched on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, on the economic, social, health, psychological, legal, and political situations of widows. It highlights the key problems and challenges widows encounter and identifies their needs and priorities under the harsh conditions of the war.

The paper employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing tools such as focus groups and interviews to analyze the impact of the ongoing genocide on widows in the Gaza Strip. To collect data, two FGDs were conducted with widows in the Rafah and Central areas, along with five interviews with service providers. Additionally, various reports, research papers, and studies issued by both local and international organizations were reviewed to assess the impact of their efforts on the status of widows in the Gaza Strip.

The paper presents a number of findings, the most significant of which are:

Widows have faced momentous challenges, striving to survive on their own, while grappling with poverty, loss of autonomy, and loss of privacy. They have solely borne the heavy responsibilities of their children, faced violence stemming from the intrusive control of their late husbands' families, and endured exploitation and abuse.

They have also faced legal challenges owing to the disruption of all judicial institutions. These challenges include problems arising from the loss of identification documents, the inability to issue death certificates for their husbands, difficulties in issuing inheritance claims for various reasons, denial of humanitarian aid, travel restrictions imposed by the husband's family, and the denial of their rights to visitation and custody of their children. Additionally, widows have experienced social violence and a deterioration in their mental health following the loss of their life partners, who were both a source of support and financial providers. This has led to feelings of loss, deprivation, and an emotional void.

Primary needs of widows include urgent humanitarian assistance, such as shelter, food, water, clothing, medication, personal hygiene items, and both individual and group psychological support.

The paper recommends enhancing efforts toward legal enablement for widows by increasing their legal awareness, providing economic support as they have become the primary breadwinners for their families, improving their independence via facilitating their access to humanitarian aid, intensifying psychological support, and offering free healthcare owing to the absence of the family provider and the widows' financial inability to cover medical expenses.

Introduction

In Gaza, there are approximately (1.10) million women, representing 49.3% of the total population. Among these women, around (546,000) are of reproductive age (15-49 years).¹ Furthermore, there are more than (2,784) widows and new female heads of households.

On the 305th day of the ongoing aggression against the Gaza Strip, Israel continues to strike civilian areas, causing a devastating number of deaths and injuries from the relentless bombardment of the Strip. According to statistics from the Government Media Office, Occupation Forces have committed (3,471) massacres, with (39,653) confirmed deaths brought to hospitals, and (10,000) missing persons.

The impact of these practices on women and other marginalized groups has been profound,² with women bearing a significant burden because of the occurring genocide on the Gaza Strip. Among the total number of people killed, over (11,012) are women, and (4,700) women and children are still among the missing to date. Additionally, thousands of women have been directly injured due to the intense bombardment.

The gender alerts issued by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) regarding Gaza provide an in-depth analysis of the dire living conditions faced by women and girls in the Gaza Strip, highlighting the severity of their circumstances. These alerts also estimate that more than one million Palestinian women and girls in Gaza are unable to access food.

The report, entitled "Scarcity and Fear", highlights the lack of access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services during the war,³ not to mention the increase in diseases amidst these inhumane living conditions. Thus, this paper seeks to shed light on the bearings of the ongoing genocide on women as a whole, with a particular focus on widows, while also identifying their urgent and diverse needs and priorities.

The study addresses the conditions of widows during the genocide perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip since October 7 and examines its repercussions on their health, legal, social, economic, psychological, and political statuses.

Research Paper Objectives:

- Understanding the legal, health, psychological, economic, and social conditions of women widowed as a result of the war on the Gaza Strip.
- Identifying the main challenges encountered by widows during the genocide in Gaza.
- Drafting recommendations to mitigate and alleviate the suffering of this group of women in the Gaza Strip, as well as assess the appropriateness and accessibility of the services provided to meet their needs.

Methodology:

The paper employs a qualitative methodology to analyze the impact of the war on widows in the Gaza Strip, assess their needs, and draft recommendations to alleviate their hardships.

1. https://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/node/1655116#_edn3

2. <https://t.me/s/mediagovps>

3. <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789211064674>

Research Paper Tools:

The tools have been designed to align with the study objectives and have been implemented as follows:

- Conducting (5) interviews with service providers, female lawyers specializing in women's rights, as well as case managers and specialists in psychosocial support for women who are currently active in the field.
- Holding (2) FGDs with widows in the governorates of Rafah and Deir al-Balah, with each group attended by (7-10) widows.
- Conducting (3) in-depth interviews with widows from all governorates of the Gaza Strip, including women who have left for the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- Additionally, reviewing reports issued by local and international organizations, as well as previous research and studies related to the war on Gaza.

Findings:

Widows, left to confront life's challenges on their own in the absence of their husbands, face unembellished hardships, as indicated the figures published by Palestine Online: 70% of the martyrs and injured are women and children; 88% have limited access to sanitation facilities; 70% lack adequate access to bathing facilities; 89% suffer from depression and trauma; 40% receive daily food only occasionally; 29% do not receive daily food at all; and 78% suffer from lack of privacy.⁴ UN Women reports that over (10,000) women have been killed in Gaza, and those who survived the bombardment and Israeli ground operations are now displaced, widowed, and facing starvation.

Widows in Gaza undergo challenges across various aspects of life, including economic, health, legal, social, and psychological dimensions, summarized as follows:

Economic Situation:

- The cycle of poverty has expanded to include women, particularly widows, owing to the absence of the primary breadwinner in the family. In addition, the deteriorating economic conditions in Gaza have significantly contributed to the rise in poverty rates, leading to the closure of numerous commercial, industrial, and agricultural establishments and a lack of job opportunities for both genders.
- In light of the blockade and starvation policies imposed by the Occupation Forces on the Gaza Strip, widows have particularly suffered from food insecurity and the inability to meet their own and their children's basic needs. This situation is further exacerbated by the persistent closure of crossings, a lack of food and water, high living costs, exploitation by merchants, and soaring prices of goods. Moreover, factors, such as the dire economic situation, lack of job opportunities, the danger of movement, and widows' inability to leave their children to go to work owing to the absence of their father further complicate their situation. On top of this, liquidity issues and exploitation by currency traders, who charge exorbitant commissions, diminish the value of any money they receive. According to the UN Women, (7) out of (10) interviewed women reported weight loss in the past months, and more than 50% of these women suffer from recurring dizziness; they often eat last, prioritizing their children's needs over their own.

4. The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development (REFORM) has issued an assessment report on the impact of the Israeli aggression on women in the Gaza Strip, published on August 17, 2024 - Link: <https://reform.ps/ar/news/the-palestinian-association-for-empowerment-and-local-development-reform-issued-an-assessment-on-the-impact-of-the-2023-2024-war-on-women-in-gaza>

* "I am exhausted and filled with frustration toward life, myself, and other people. There's nothing decent to eat. I can only give my children canned food, and worry about their health. I cannot find them any proper clothes or even slippers; they are always barefoot. When they go to the market, they look at things they want, but I cannot buy any of these things because I have no money."

- Families in Gaza rely heavily on humanitarian aid as their primary source of food. However, according to a survey by the UN Women, 87.3% believe that food aid is not distributed fairly among households, with mothers often being the last and least likely to eat, as they sacrifice their meals to feed their children. In addition, 83.5% stated that the aid provided is insufficient to meet their families' needs. Widows, in particular, face challenges in accessing and receiving aid owing to the lack of identification and/or legal documents verifying their status as widows, a lack of awareness of institutions where they could register for assistance, and exploitation by certain individuals. Even when they manage to receive aid, they still struggle with carrying it owing to the extremely limited availability of transportation.

- Widows are unable to live independently because of the harsh economic conditions and their inability to meet their own and their children's basic needs, which leads to a lack of decision-making autonomy and privacy.

They are also unable to give their children daily allowances due to overwhelming expenses, the heavy burden of responsibility, as well as the loss of homes previously provided by their families or their in-laws.⁵

* "I am ill and in need of treatment, and I have a young child to care for. My husband was killed in the war, and for the last three months, I have been unable to withdraw any money from the monthly salary he used to get. His family keeps asking about the salary, but no one has been able to access it."

Health Situation:

- Widows have suffered a decline in their health as a result of malnutrition, food insecurity, and a range of health issues, including anemia, chronic headaches, weight loss, respiratory problems, irregular menstrual cycles, and bacterial infections, like hepatitis, which has spread widely owing to the prevalence of many other infectious diseases. Furthermore, the absence of privacy has significantly affected their ability to maintain personal hygiene, especially given the use of public restrooms, water shortages, poor sanitation services, and the spread of insects.

5. The Palestinian National Economic Empowerment Institution "PNEEI" via an infographic published on Palestine Online platform.

A recent survey by UN Women reveals a significant decline in the physical and mental health conditions of women and girls. The survey indicates that, in the event of a ground invasion, approximately (700,000) women and girls in Rafah face increased risks of death and imminent injury due to a lack of safe shelter from the bombings and killing war machinery. The UN has also warned of the growing risk of disease outbreaks, especially in light of the (40,000) confirmed cases of hepatitis, which pose a severe threat to public health and add to the burdens on mothers who have to care for their ill children.

- During the genocide, widows were expected to perform grueling tasks beyond their capacities, including spending long hours in queues to obtain food and clean water, as well as bearing heavy burdens such as collecting firewood, carrying water, and searching for a safe place to flee. Repeated displacement has prevented widows from maintaining their privacy owing to overcrowding and a lack of sanitation facilities, leading to chaos in their lifestyles and affecting their mental well-being.

Social Situation:

- Widows have been forced to bear greater responsibilities for their children due to the absence of their husbands, which has been compounded by the fear and insecurity caused by relentless bombings and the life-threatening conditions they and their children face, with no safe refuge to seek.

- Widows have endured significant hardships as a result of repeated displacements, difficulties in securing shelter for themselves and their children, and the constant need to flee day and night amidst intense bombardment and gunfire.

The situation has been exacerbated by the absence of their husbands and, in many cases, their children, too. Some women, having lost both their families and their husbands, are left in a dire predicament where they are unable to escape or relocate.

* "I am not worried about myself; rather, I am deeply concerned about my children. It is a huge responsibility. We have neither food nor money. I used to manage with just the basics. My brother-in-law kicked us out of his tent when I requested a separate one for my daughters and me to sleep in. I had been sleeping in the same tent with him, which was very uncomfortable, not to mention that he used to beat my daughters. I have endured many hardships that are beyond what anyone could bear."

* "I had been waiting for the war to end so we could finally see you! I never imagined it would end like this. I was looking forward to the first meeting between you and Zina, not a photo of your funeral! Where are you? Please respond to your daughter! I am still waiting for your call to tell me that you miss us, that the war is almost over, and that we are going to see you safe and sound."

Violence Against Widows:

Widows have endured social violence stemming from the intrusive control exerted by their families or in-laws, as well as exploitation by both in-laws and service providers. They have faced expulsion, exploitation, and intrusive control over their lives. According to Lawyer Suhair Albaba, Coordinator of the Legal Clinic at Women's Affairs Center in Gaza, some widows have been evicted from their homes by their in-laws. These in-laws have either neglected their responsibilities toward the widow and her children or have excessively controlled the children and unfairly held the widow accountable for the orphan funds.⁶

Lack of Privacy:

Like the majority of other displaced women, widows have suffered due to a lack of privacy, as many displaced families have been living in shared spaces such as tents, small apartments, or rooms where men and women are together, with only one bathroom and one shared kitchen for everyone. Widows have faced harsh conditions, leading to both psychological and physical health issues. They have also experienced interference in their own affairs and those of their children, repeatedly encountering harassment and psychological abuse. Despite these challenges, they strive to conceal their struggles and project strength while managing their children's responsibilities on their own.

Legal Situation:

The genocide and deliberate targeting of various legal institutions, such as Sharia courts, the courthouse, police stations, government offices, and buildings housing law firms, along with the destruction of homes, have led to significant legal challenges, as many case files, identification documents, property deeds, and original contracts have been lost.

To gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the genocide on the rights and needs of widows, interviews were conducted with female lawyers working on women's rights at Human Rights Centers, namely Women's Human Rights Centers. Additionally, FGDs were held in the governorates of Rafah and Deir al-Balah, each attended by (7) to (10) widows. In-depth interviews were also conducted with widows across all governorates of the Gaza Strip and in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Key Findings:

- Most widows participating in the FGDs reported losing their identification documents due to bombardment or sudden, forced displacement. This led to difficulties in verifying their own identities, proving the death of their husbands, establishing their children's identities, and addressing issues related to guardianship, custody, and visitation, all of which were compounded by the absence of functioning courts and executive authorities.⁷

6. Individual Interview with Lawyer Suhair Albaba, Coordinator of the Legal Clinic at Women's Affairs Center

7. FGDs with widows in Rafah and Deir al-Balah governorates to identify women's needs and major challenges.

- When subjected to violence, widows found no authorities to turn to for protection or to file complaints due to the absence of institutions and police, including shelters management teams that were unable to offer them protection.

- Some widows were unable to obtain death certificates for their husbands or issue inheritance claims owing to several factors: repeated displacement, non-functioning courts in their areas, lack of knowledge about court procedures and locations, or the inability to afford transaction and document replacement fees. Others faced similar difficulties because of the dangerous situation, restricted mobility, and fear of visiting government offices.

Lawyer Suhair Albaba emphasizes this issue, stating: "Through our field visits and discussions with women in shelters and tents, we have identified a critical need for legal assistance. We direct these women to the available legal services in the courts. A major challenge is the difficulty women face in obtaining death certificates for their husbands, especially for those who were killed in Gaza city or the north while the women are in the south. Additionally, widows encounter financial difficulties in acquiring official documents, like custody claims, widowhood claims, personal identification documents, and proof of death, and often lack awareness about how to obtain them."⁸

In this context, a rapid assessment of women's access to justice during the 2023-2024 war on the Gaza Strip, focusing on their concerns and needs, was conducted by the Center for Women's Legal Researches, Counselling and Protection (CWLRCPC) in partnership with Women's Affairs Center (WAC).

The assessment reveals that 63.9% of the widows surveyed experienced difficulties following the death of their husbands. Specifically, 50% reported that their in-laws refused to allow them to retain custody of their children after their husbands' deaths; 41.5% were unable to issue death certificates for their husbands; approximately 18% could not issue inheritance claims; and 76.4% were unable to receive humanitarian aid during the war due to their husbands' deaths.⁹

Widows also have experienced intrusive control over their lives and resources, including restrictions on their movements. Some widows participating in the FGDs reported that men often controlled critical decisions in their lives, and thus, the presence of a male guardian, such as a grandfather or uncle, further limited their authority and control over decisions related to their children's futures.

Additionally, competition from the widows' legal guardians for aid from charities and institutions have posed another obstacle. Guardians sometimes seek aid on behalf of the widows, which complicates the process of obtaining the necessary documents and identification papers; these issues led to difficulties in proving their identity, verifying their husbands' death, establishing their children's identities, and managing guardianship, custody, and visitation matters in light of the absence of courts and executive authorities.

8. Individual Interview with Lawyer Suhair Albaba, Coordinator of the Legal Clinic at Women's Affairs Center

9. Rapid assessment on Women's Access to Justice during the 2023-2024 War on the Gaza Strip: Concerns and Needs, Center for Women's Legal Researches, Counselling and Protection (CWLRCPC) and Women's Affairs Center (WAC)

- Widows have been deprived of the right to see and gain custody of their children due to the absence of an executive authority capable of enforcing compliance with the law.
- 56.4% of widows, divorcees, or those suspended (separated without an official divorce) encountered custody issues, either due to travel or family objections.¹⁰
- Women have been unable to obtain guardianship documents for their children from Sharia courts, which has allowed grandfathers and uncles to exert control in order to receive aid and orphan funds.
- Widows have been denied of their right to travel for various reasons, including objections from in-laws and loss of identification documents.

Areej Mohammed, a martyr's wife, left the Gaza Strip during the war and is currently in the Arab Republic of Egypt. She states, "After my husband and his entire family were martyred, and we lost our house along with all our documents, I decided to leave with the children to protect them. I did not want them to suffer the same fate as my husband, isn't it enough that he is gone?!! They asked for documents and a travel permit, but neither the courts nor the Ministry of Interior were functioning; I could not obtain a death certificate or access my late husband's assets so we can provide for ourselves. I faced many difficulties just getting my kids out of Gaza Strip, and now I need documents to enroll them in school. The responsibility is overwhelming, and I did not expect it to be this difficult."¹¹

- Widows have faced social violence, including being denied their inheritance and access to their deceased husbands' or children's salaries. These issues stemmed from various factors, such as complex procedures, bank closures, lack of liquidity, loss of identification documents and challenges in replacing them, and interference from the husband's family, which exploited and controlled the widows' finances.

Widows have encountered unembellished challenges due to the war, particularly as they were abruptly thrust into the role of sole providers for their families after losing their husbands. In order to continue receiving emergency humanitarian aid, they were required to present identification documents, including a widowhood claim, guardianship papers for their minor children, and proof of dependency for their adult children. If the widow's late husband was a government employee, she is required to provide a disbursement authorization in order to receive the monthly payments allocated to her children from the deceased husband's salary. She must then submit all relevant documents to the General Authority for Insurance and Pensions in Ramallah and wait for the application to be approved before accessing these funds.

Lawyer Duaa Zueid from WAC clarifies, "Every day, we assist widows who face challenges in obtaining necessary documents."

10. Rapid assessment on Women's Access to Justice during the 2023-2024 War on the Gaza Strip: Concerns and Needs, Center for Women's Legal Researches, Counselling and Protection (CWLRCPC) and Women's Affairs Center (WAC)

11. Individual interview with Areej Mohamed, a widow from Gaza Strip currently residing in Egypt,

Through WAC, we strive to ease these women's burden by providing guidance on how to acquire these documents from the relevant courts, covering the associated fees and costs, and submitting them to the appropriate authorities for humanitarian aid or the General Authority for Insurance and Pensions, thereby alleviating some of their burdens under these dire circumstances."¹²

* "I lost my home during the first week of the war, and all our documents were inside; we did not have time to retrieve them. My husband passed away last December, but proving his death was hard because he was initially missing. It took three months for the Red Cross to find and identify his body. I struggled to replace the lost documents due to my inability to afford the fees, and now I cannot access the aid I need since it requires identification documents and proof of widowhood, which I do not have."

- The separation between the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip has led to catastrophic conditions, resulting in the fragmentation and disconnection of families. Many family members lost contact with one another due to power outages, internet disruptions, and communication breakdowns. These challenges not only limited their access to humanitarian aid and disrupted their social lives, but also had a severe impact on widows, who faced the added burden of losing identification documents, particularly as government institutions, courts, and police stations became dysfunctional.

* "As the bombardment intensified, my husband went out in an attempt to find a safe shelter for us, but he was shot by the Israeli forces. My son tried to rescue his father, but he, too, was shot and injured, forcing him to flee. My husband's body remained on the street for two weeks, and we could not bury him until it was torn apart by dogs. All our documents and money were with him, and since then, I have been struggling on my own."

Psychological Situation:

- The psychological well-being of widows has worsened owing to the loss of their life partners amid difficult circumstances entailed by the ongoing war has. This has resulted in a range of emotional struggles, including feelings of loss, deprivation, emotional void, fear, insecurity, constant tension, depression, loneliness, and discomfort in seeking help to meet their and their children's needs. The war has inflicted substantial psychological trauma on widows, leading to various symptoms of psychological stress, such as sleep disorders, eating disorders, severe irritability, chronic anxiety, psychosomatic problems, unremitting crying, social isolation, extreme stress, nightmares, and phobias.

- Recent data from a UN Women survey reveals a significant decline in the physical and mental health conditions of women and girls in general, and widows in particular.

12. Individual interview with Lawyer Duaa Zueid from Women's Affairs Center

Risks of death and imminent injury due to lack of access to safe shelters from the bombings and killing war machinery are expected to increase for approximately (700,000) women and girls.

Itemad Washah, Coordinator of the Psychological Support Program at WAC, emphasizes that the psychological conditions of women, especially widows, have increasingly deteriorated during this war. According to Washah, psychological first aid services have been provided to about (2540) displaced women, including widows, divorcees, married women, and single women.¹³

"Among the symptoms we most frequently encounter are psychosomatic symptoms, which are associated with both the body and the mind. Many women suffer from persistent headaches, colon pain, stomachaches, and skin conditions related to liver and pancreas inflammation, largely owing to the adverse living conditions in the tents. Psychologically, most widows experience sleep disorders, eating disorders, and depression. This worsens their situation as they are required to take on the primary responsibility of caring for their children, which significantly heightens their psychological stress and sometimes necessitates medical treatment. In fact, we have consulted with a psychiatrist to handle some cases due to their complexity," says Salma Alsuweirki, Psychologist and Case Manager.¹⁴

Women have also faced denial about their widowhood. In FGDs and collective psychological support workshops, one woman expressed her struggle with acceptance, saying, "I am a widow; no, I am not a widow. I am very tired."

This war has surpassed our expectations. Although I was told he was buried, I have not seen his dead body with my own eyes. I hate my life and wish to die."¹⁵

Recommendations:

To enhance the conditions of widows, the paper presents the following set of recommendations:

- Ensure legal enablement for widows through raising their legal awareness by informing them of their rights and the procedures to claim them and claim custody for their children; guiding them throughout the process; assisting them in obtaining necessary documents at no cost; and connecting them with acting judges in the courts.
- Ensure economic empowerment for widows by providing financial support, small business opportunities, and job opportunities to help them meet their and their children's basic needs, given that they have become the primary breadwinners for their families. This will enhance their independence and enable them to maintain custody of their children.
- Facilitate safe access to humanitarian aid and allocate specific quotas for widows.
- Intensify both individual and group psychological support for women, and provide the necessary treatments to prevent further deterioration of their mental and physical health.
- Provide free and emergency help and protection hotlines, and disseminate contact information across all media platforms and in displacement camps and shelters.
- Provide free medical and healthcare support to widows, as they have lost the primary family breadwinners and are unable to afford treatment costs.

13. Individual interview with Itemad Washah, Coordinator of Psychological Support Program at Women's Affairs Center

14. Individual interview with Salma Alsuweirki, Psychologist and Case Manager

15. Wafaa A., a 35-year-old widow participating in the FGDs

Sources and References:

- Survey published by UN Women
- Report on Women in Gaza: Caught in War Cycle – Lost Dreams and Missing Privacy: published on August 17, 2024

<https://www.alaraby.com/news/%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A8-%D8%A3%D8%AD%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%B6%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%AE%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B5%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%81%D9%82%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A9>

* Previous Studies:

- Report on Violations Against Palestinian Women During War: An Examination of International Law Texts - The Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) - February 2024.
- Rapid Assessment of Women's Access to Justice During the War on Gaza (2023-2024): Concerns and Needs - Center for Women's Legal Researches, Counselling and Protection (CWLRCPC) in partnership with Women's Affairs Center (WAC).
- Policy Paper published by Institute for Palestine Studies - Researcher Madeline Halabi - Women in Gaza During Genocide: Women, War, and Resistance.

https://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/node/1655116#_edn29

* In-depth Interviews:

- Interviews with Service Providers:
 - Interview with Lawyer Suhair Albaba - Coordinator of the Legal Clinic at Women's Affairs Center
 - Interview with Lawyer Duaa Zwayed - Lawyer at Women's Affairs Center
 - Interview with Itemad WAshah - Coordinator of the Psychological Support Program at Women's Affairs Center
 - Interview with Salma Alsuweirki - Psychologist and Case Manager
- Interview with Haneen Harzallah - Psychologist
- Interviews with Widows:
 - Interview with Areej Mohammed - a widow from Gaza currently residing in Egypt
 - Phone interview with W.N. - a widow whose husband was martyred in Gaza City
 - Interview with Nasreen Shaaban - a widow from Gaza who participated in FGDs

*** Websites:**

- **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics:**

https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/lang__ar/1405/Default.aspx

- **Government Media Office:** <https://t.me/s/mediagovps>

- **Palestinian Ministry of Health:** <http://www.moh.ps/>

- **Institute for Palestine Studies: Women in Gaza During Genocide: Women, War, and Resistance:** https://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/node/1655116#_edn29

- **UN Women Report - Scarcity and Fear - May 2024:** <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789211064674>

- **Website of Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs:**

<https://cda.gov.ps/index.php/ar/ar-news-2/15393-51-2>

- **Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development (REFORM) Report on the Impact of the Israeli Aggression on Women in the Gaza Strip – published on August 17, 2024:** <https://reform.ps/ar/news/the-palestinian-association-for-empowerment-and-local-development-reform-issued-an-assessment-on-the-impact-of-the-2023-2024-war-on-women-in-gaza>

- **The Palestinian National Economic Empowerment Institution "PNEEI" - Infographic published via Palestine Online platform**

- **Videos and posts of women mourning their deceased husbands:**

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/509259475115608>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/759037367518678/permalink/8046289362126739/?mibextid=WC7FNe&rdid=wIHgja4xqhEqjGUy&share_url

<https://www.facebook.com/share/F7JY4x4Qfx4v1g6LY/3Fmibextid/3DWC7FNe>

- **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide - UN General Assembly December 1946:** <https://www.ohchr.org/ar/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-prevention-and-punishment-crime-genocide>