



POLICY PAPER:

COMBATING MISINFORMATION AND STEREOTYPES ON THE BASIS OF GEOGRAPHIC ORIGINS IN PALESTINE

To Civil Society Organisations in Palestine

From Social and human rights activists, participants of the Gaza Thinks activity, part of the Rethink, Reconnect the Med Common Action.

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Executive Summary

The Issue

Misinformation about the social and cultural attributes of people from different parts of the same country, combined with social stigmas and other forms of cultural prejudice and stereotypes, generally results in socioeconomic discrimination, social and political division, hate crime and hate speech, amongst other pertinent issues facing contemporary societies. Within the different regions of Palestine, this issue is most prominent amongst three groups: the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip by those of Jerusalem and the West Bank; the Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip by the native citizens of that area; and Palestinians from the northern, central, and southern parts of both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank towards each other. Class-based discrimination, limited access to healthcare and other basic facilities, familial incoherence, social disintegration, and social restrictions on family reunification programs are but some of the most direct outcomes of this issue in Palestine. Official institutions in Palestine have not addressed nor acknowledged the existence of this issue yet, which is arguably one of the root causes of the ongoing inter-Palestinian political divide.

Main Argument

Misinformation, stereotypes, and social stigmas feeding into regional or geographical discrimination within Palestinian society are an outcome of the official Israeli agenda aiming to uproot the Palestinian struggle for independence and freedom and, therefore, must be fought and overcome.

Background

1) Vision

To combat stereotypes and misinformation based on regional or geographic origins in Palestinian society, for example, between Palestinians from Gaza city and those from northern and/or southern Gaza Strip; city residents and residents of rural areas in Palestine; Palestinian refugees and Palestinian citizens in the Gaza Strip; people from Gaza Strip and those from East Jerusalem and/or the West Bank; and Palestinians living in Palestine and members of the Palestinian diaspora abroad.

Short-term objectives

- Launch an advocacy campaign to raise awareness about this issue and the various types of social, economic, cultural, and political discrimination that emanate from it.
- Design a series of workshops and focus groups that call for and support social harmonisation efforts between Palestinian regions and amongst Palestinians living abroad and at home.
- Open communication channels amongst Palestinians from the various geographical regions of Palestine and members of the Palestinian diaspora abroad.

Medium-term objectives

- Call for the fair distribution of services and employment opportunities between Palestinian regions.
- Launch a humanitarian initiative to facilitate communication and familial visits between the various regions of Palestine, for example, between the Gaza strip and the West Bank or between Palestinians at home and abroad.
- Establish social bridges between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through cultural exchange programs and online platforms.

Long-term objectives

- Form coalitions between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Palestine to carry out concentrated efforts aiming to build social bridges and unify the Palestinian society, thereby addressing the root causes of ongoing political division in Palestine.
- Ensure respect for multiculturalism in Palestine and envision various legal remedies to protect minorities and differences of racial, religious and/or ethnic characteristics, as needed.
- Unify and harmonise the judicial systems of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.
- Request ongoing monitoring and evaluation by local organisations to ensure the successful implementation of the recommendations of this policy paper.

2) Analysis

The phenomenon of prejudice and stereotyping people based on their geographical origins is one of the most prominent issues facing contemporary societies across the globe. According to one study, the concentration of African Americans in certain parts of the US has amplified racial and economic discrimination in that country and led to the general marginalisation of the geographical regions in which African Americans live.¹ In addition, such regions would typically have a higher rate of crimes than other regions.² Another study of the Buraku district of Nishinari in Osaka city, one of the most marginalised areas of Japan, has indicated that there is a direct link between such patterns of discrimination (regional-based) and mental health issues facing the population of that geographical region, including depression and suicide.³ Misinformation about the social and cultural attributes of people from different parts of the same country, combined with social stigmas and other forms of cultural prejudice and stereotypes generally result in socioeconomic discrimination, social and political division, hate crime and hate speech, amongst other pertinent issues facing contemporary societies.

Within the different regions of Palestine, this issue is most prominent amongst three groups: the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip by those of Jerusalem and the West Bank; Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip by the native citizens of that area; and Palestinians from the northern, central, and southern parts of both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank amongst each other. Class-based discrimination, limited access to healthcare and other basic facilities, familial incoherence, social disintegration, and social restrictions on family reunification programs are but some of the most direct outcomes of this issue in Palestine. Official institutions in Palestine have not addressed nor acknowledged the existence of this issue yet, which is arguably one of the root causes of the ongoing inter-Palestinian political divide.

This is not the same as xenophobia or hatred towards refugees and people from other nationalities, although it is often accompanied with similar levels of discrimination in the provision of job opportunities, education, and health care, amongst other social welfare programs. In addition, given the catastrophic outcomes of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in particular the Palestinian Nakba of 1948 that has turned Palestine into a nation of predominantly refugees living at home in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and abroad, contemporary Palestinian society is arguably suffering from the double effect of xenophobia and regional discrimination.

¹ Jay Shambaugh, Ryan Nunn, and Stacy A. Anderson, “How racial and regional inequality affect economic opportunity,” *Brookings*, 15/02/2019, available via: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2019/02/15/how-racial-and-regional-inequality-affect-economic-opportunity/> / (accessed 11 May 2022).

² S. Harrendorf, M. Heiskanen, and S. Malby (eds.), “International Statistics on Crime and Justice,” *European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control*, 2010, available via: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crime-statistics/International_Statistics_on_Crime_and_Justice.pdf (accessed 11 May 2022).

³ Takahiro Tabuchi, Hiroyuki Fukuhara, and Hiroyasu Iso, “Geographically-based discrimination is a social determinant of mental health in a deprived or stigmatized area in Japan: a cross-sectional study,” *National Library of Medicine – National Centre for Biotechnology Information*, 09/2012, available via: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22694988/> (accessed 11 May 2022).

As part of the present study, a random sample of Palestinians living in Jordan, Egypt, the central parts of Gaza, Belgium, Turkey, and the United Kingdom were interviewed. The following is a relevant selection of their narrated experiences with social and/or political stigmas due to xenophobia and/or their regional origins:

- Asem, from central Gaza, has noted that Palestinians from his region often require connections (Wasta) to receive medical treatment or to be treated respectfully at the hospitals of Gaza City.
- An interviewee from Khan Yunis pointed out that access to electricity and fresh or clean water is extremely poor in the southern parts of the Gaza Strip in comparison to the central and northern regions. She also expressed her dismay with the poor treatment of people from southern Gaza by those living in the western and central regions of the Strip.
- Ahmad expressed his frustration with being recently deported at the airport in Jordan because he is from Gaza. Once in Egypt, he could not obtain an official residence permit nor a tourist visa, nor could he receive any financial support from his family through Western Union or exchange foreign currency for Egyptian Pounds while awaiting safe passage to Gaza, all due to being a Palestinian from Gaza.
- Several Palestinians from Gaza living abroad in countries such as the UK and Belgium have expressed their dismay with being treated as inferiors by their countrymates from Jerusalem, the West Bank, and/or other members of the Palestinian diaspora.
- Aseel, from Gaza, said she was discriminated against by the Palestinian community in Turkey. On one occasion during Ramadan, she was seated with a group of people at a community Iftar event who stood up and sat elsewhere when she told them she was from Gaza.

The following PESTLE analysis has additionally been carried out for a further exploration of the Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental risks of the issue of misinformation, stereotypes, and social stigmas based on geographical origins in Palestine and amongst Palestinians living abroad.

Political risks

- This is arguably one of the main reasons behind the ongoing political, inter-Palestinian divide.
- It serves the colonial Israeli policies of ‘divide and rule.’ Indeed, since the first Palestinian uprising in 1988, Israel has reportedly embarked on an official policy of ‘divide and rule’ vis-à-vis the Palestinian community to divide the Palestinians into geographically isolated cantons. In conjunction to this, Israel embarked on building its apartheid wall in Jerusalem and the West Bank in 2002, and in 2005 it withdrew from Gaza Strip in a bid to arguably make Gaza preoccupied with such social and political issues rather than the general Palestinian cause.⁴
- Re-writing Palestinians’ history and national narrative.

⁴ Tayseer Muhaisen, “With Separation and ‘close control,’: the impact of division on the unity of society and the effectiveness of the political system,” *Institute for Palestine Studies*, 25/11/2014, available in Arabic via: <https://www.palestine-studies.org/ar/node/1635829> (accessed 11 May 2022).

Economic risks

- Regional discrimination in the distribution of resources and foreign aid.
- Regional discrimination in the provision of job opportunities.
- Cutting the wages of and imposing early and/or compulsory retirement packages on PA employees in Gaza Strip.
- The imposition of higher custom rates on Gaza in comparison to the West Bank.
- Higher rates of living and generally better economic realities in the West Bank than in the Gaza Strip, entrenched by the inter-Palestinian political divide.⁵

Social risks

- Aggravates hate speech and hate crime.
- Contributes to familial incoherence, rising rates of divorce, and social disintegration.
- The main cause of class-based discrimination.
- Places restrictions on family reunification programs. For example, residents of the Gaza Strip cannot enter the West Bank through the Erez crossing in northern Gaza without an Israeli permit.⁶
- Results in limited access to health care and other social welfare services in marginalised geographical regions.
- Increases and intensifies gender-based discrimination against women in marginalised geographical regions. For example, there are higher rates of domestic violence in the Gaza Strip in comparison to the West Bank.⁷

Technological risks

- Fragmentation impact and restrictions on accessing online websites such as Amazon. An estimate of more than 80% of such online shopping sites are currently inaccessible in Gaza.
- Misuse of social media platforms, empowering hate speech between different regions in Gaza and between Gaza and the West Bank.
- Online news websites in Palestine and research platforms such as Google carelessly provide a platform for hate speech directed towards one region or the other.
- Technological equipment and tools that are necessary for editing and general internet uses are currently restricted in Gaza. Similarly, there is an acute shortage of medical

⁵ Ayham Abu Ghoush, “In numbers... a huge economic gap between the West Bank and Gaza perpetuated by the division,” *Alhaya*, 06/04/2021, available in Arabic via: <http://www.alhaya.ps/ar/Article/121769/> بالأرقامهوية-اقتصادية-شاسعة-بين-الضفة-وغزة-يُكرسها-الانقسام (accessed 11 May 2022).

⁶ Maha Hussaini, “‘Split in Half’: Gaza mother’s years-long wait to reunite with her children in West Bank,” *Middle East Eye*, 29/03/2021, available via <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-gaza-west-bank-mother-permit-children-split?msclkid=f57985f7cf6811ecb9f6b70615ecb36e> (accessed 11 May 2022).

⁷ *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*, “Men and women in Palestine: issues and statistics,” 2021. Available via <https://info.wafa.ps/userfiles/server/%20المرأة%20والرجل%20في%20فلسطين%20قضايا%20وإحصاءات%20،> 202021.pdf (accessed 11 May 2022); and *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*, “Preliminary results of a domestic violence survey in Palestinian society,” 2019, available via: <https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book2480.pdf> (accessed 11 May 2022).

equipment necessary for the general function of the Palestinian health care system. Most affected are people with disabilities and kidney patients in need of dialysis.⁸

Legal risks

- Informs and is an outcome of legal restrictions placed on family reunification programs. For example, in July 2003, the Israeli Knesset passed a law that prevents family unification for Israeli citizens married to Palestinians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which, according to Amnesty International, is a “further step in Israel’s long-standing policy aimed at restricting the number of Palestinians who are allowed to live in Israel and in East Jerusalem.”⁹ In addition, Israel has long been criticised for separating Palestinian children from their families, including those from the Gaza Strip who are referred for medical treatment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Discrimination before the law, based on geographic origins. Different legal systems are even followed in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, for example, Penal Code Qom 74 of 1936 in Gaza and Penal Code No.16 of 1960 in the West Bank.

Environmental risks

- Discrimination in the allocation of services and social welfare programmes heavily affects the living conditions of Palestinians in the refugee camps of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and neighbouring countries such as Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.
- Population density in disadvantaged areas and refugee camps results in various types of environmental pollution and associated health problems.
- Israeli military campaigns against the Gaza Strip always begin with the targeting of Palestinian electric grids, water services and other vital public facilities.¹⁰
- With damaged or failing infrastructure, much of Gaza’s water contains dangerously

⁸ *Relief Web*, “Gaza: Israeli restrictions harm people with disabilities,” 12/2020, available via: <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/gaza-israeli-restrictions-harm-people-disabilities> (accessed 11 May 2022); Helga Tawil-Souri, “The technological end between the ‘inside’ of Gaza and the ‘outside’ of Gaza,” *7iber*, 29/09/2014, available via: <https://www.7iber.com/2014/09/the-technological-end-between-the-inside-of-gaza-and-the-outside-of-gaza/> (accessed 11 May 2022); WACC, “How Israel controls Palestinian ICTs,” 13/05/2019, available via: <https://waccglobal.org/how-israel-controls-palestinian-icts/> (accessed 11 May 2022), *Medical Aid for Palestinians*, “Dialysis in Gaza: A shrinking lifeline for kidney patients,” 18/02/2016, available via: <https://www.map.org.uk/news/archive/post/582-dialysis-in-gaza-a-shrinking-lifeline-for-kidney-patients> (accessed 11 May 2022); and Wafa Aludaini, “the healthcare crisis in Gaza demands immediate action to alleviate unnecessary suffering,” *Middle East Monitor*, 09/02/2022, available via: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20220209-the-healthcare-crisis-in-gaza-demands-immediate-action-to-alleviate-unnecessary-suffering/> (accessed 11 May 2022).

⁹ *Amnesty International*, “Israeli and the Occupied Territories: Torn Apart: Families split by discriminatory policies,” 12/07/2004, available via: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/063/2004/en/> (accessed 11 May 2022).

¹⁰ *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, “Electricity and water infrastructure severely damaged during hostilities,” 31/08/2014, available via: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/electricity-and-water-infrastructure-severely-damaged-during-hostilities> (accessed 11 May 2022).

high salinity levels, or is extremely polluted by sewage and other substances. For instance, Muhammed Shehada of Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor told the 48th UN Human Rights Council session that about one-quarter of all diseases in Gaza are caused by water pollution, and that an estimated twelve percent of deaths among Gaza's children are linked to intestinal infections related to contaminated water.¹¹

- Gaza's Water and Environmental Quality Authority warned of a massive crisis should Gaza's water supplies continue to deplete at the current dangerous rate. The Authority's spokesman, Mazen al-Banna, told reporters that 98 percent of Gaza's water supplies are not fit for human consumption. Importantly, millions of gallons of raw sewage pour into Gazan beaches, contaminating underground freshwater aquifers and contributing to the overall classification of the Gaza Strip by the UN as 'uninhabitable.'¹²
- The ongoing power shortages in the Gaza Strip have impacted the availability of healthcare, water, and sanitation, pushing the population of Gaza to consider alternative private generators that cause significant levels of air pollution.¹³
- In the West Bank, the Israeli government continues to usurp Palestinian water resources from the region's main aquifers in the Mountain Aquifer and the Coastal Aquifer. Frustratingly, Israel's main water company, Mekorot, sells stolen Palestinian water to Palestinian villages and towns, especially in the northern West Bank region, at extremely high prices. "Aside from the ongoing profiteering from water theft, Israel continues to use water as a form of collective punishment in the West Bank, while quite often denying Palestinians, especially in Area C, the right to dig new wells to circumvent Israeli's water monopoly."¹⁴

3) Scenarios

Scenario 1: worst-case scenario

¹¹ ANERA, "Overflowing sewage and waste," available via: <https://www.anera.org/priorities/sewage-sanitation-systems/> (accessed 11 May 2022); Ramzy Baroud, "Palestinians fight for survival amid Israel's war on Gaza's water," Arab News, 28/03/2022, available via: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2052321> (accessed 11 May 2022); and *UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, "Seawater pollution raises concerns of waterborne diseases and environmental hazards in the Gaza Strip," 09/08/2018, available via: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/seawater-pollution-raises-concerns-waterborne-diseases-and-environmental-hazards-gaza-strip> (accessed 11 May 2022).

¹² *UN News*, "Gaza could become uninhabitable in less than five years due to ongoing 'de-development' – UN report," 01/09/2015, available via: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/09/507762-gaza-could-become-uninhabitable-less-five-years-due-ongoing-de-development-un> (accessed 11 May 2022).

¹³ *WASH Cluster* – Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, "Consequences of Electricity Crisis on WASH in Gaza Strip," available via: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/document/s/files/wash_cluster_rapid_assessment_report_-_electricity_crisis-final.pdf (accessed 11 May 2022).

¹⁴ Ramzy Baroud, "Gaza's forthcoming crisis might be worse than anything we have ever seen," *The Jordan Times*, 29/03/2022, available via: <https://www.jordantimes.com/opinion/ramzy-baroud/gazas-forthcoming-crisis-might-be-worse-than-anything-we-have-ever-seen> (accessed 11 May 2022).

- The situation remains the same, and the gap between the different sectors of Palestinian society worsens and grows.
- Hate speech intensifies and leads to additional, currently unimaginable social problems.
- Regional discrimination will worsen and become increasingly entrenched and intractable.
- The inter-Palestinian political and associated geographical division between Gaza and the West Bank will worsen, thereby delaying a permanent resolution to the Palestinian cause and further contributing to various economic and socio-political clashes.
- The economic, social, legal, and political situation in Palestine will continue worsening, particularly in Gaza, and the overall Palestinian cause will be pushed further and further into marginalisation by the international community, thereby serving Israeli interests.
- Legally, Israel's family separation laws lead to a situation whereby Palestinian Arabs do not prosper as a community, remaining politically disempowered, socio-economically disadvantaged, and constantly threatened with the loss of their residency and citizenship.
- The Palestinian people in their various geographical regions will become desensitized and will lose any connection amongst themselves.
- Crime rates may increase as well as various mental and health issues.
- The rates of discrimination against minorities, people with disability, and vulnerable groups (women and children) will increase and continue to worsen.
- The donor community may withdraw its funding to Palestine due to the inability of its authorities to enforce their sovereignty on the ground.
- The international community may impose sanctions on Palestine, particularly regarding its responsibilities and obligations under international human rights law.

Scenario 2: cautious optimism and partial action based on the selective implementation of this policy paper

- There will be no radical change, the harm will be slowly contained over a longer period of time.
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) would carry out concentrated efforts to fight stereotypes, misinformation, and regional discrimination.
- Raising awareness amongst individuals on the importance of fighting discrimination and stereotypes.
- Fair distribution of resources, aid, and job opportunities will slowly be realised.
- Disadvantages:
 - Concerned parties may fail to achieve the desired ends and instead aggravate the situation.
 - No real, tangible, or speedy resolution to the current situation.
 - A Possibly aggressive reaction of some people in society.

Scenario 3: best-case scenario, if this policy paper and its recommendations are implemented in full by CSOs and NGOs (*favourable/recommended*)

- The Palestinian people will be supported in taking a collective stance, resulting in the unification of the Palestinian society across its various regional divides.

- Unification of laws governing the Palestinian population.
- Challenging factionalism and coining new terminologies centered on resistance, liberation, and international solidarity.
- Achieving reconciliation between Palestinian political parties at long last.
- Improving public services and facilities for minorities in Palestine.
- Fair distribution of resources and equal job opportunities.
- Ensuring the enjoying of complete and equal rights by all parts and regions of Palestinian society.
- Reaching a level of social and economic stability and security.
- Overcoming the notion that Palestinians of historic Palestine have assimilated with the new reality and are no longer a part of the larger Palestinian national politics.
- Improving social relationships and lowering divorce rates.

4) Recommendations

Short-term recommendations

- Reach out to NGOs and CSOs to launch advocacy and awareness campaigns that involve people from different cultural backgrounds within Palestinian society.
- Empower students at universities and schools by establishing partnerships with trainers and experts to design workshops and focus groups that would help students learn more about the case.
- Establish twinning and exchange programs between educational institutions as well as NGOs and business sectors.
- Establish a permanent journal or online forum that gives an opportunity to Palestinians from all backgrounds to exchange their ideas.
- Run a weekly show that addresses the issue of division and misinformation and emphasises their dangers.
- Integrate Palestinian youth of different backgrounds to overcome the issue of hate speech through interviews and social media campaigns.
- Form a youth representative committee led by individuals from different geographical locations to conduct ongoing advocacy campaigns.

Medium-term recommendations

- Require NGOs and CSOs to carry out surveys to collect data about the different segments of minorities in Palestine and determine the right initiatives to launch based on their respective needs.
- Request that industrial and business unions monitor and evaluate hiring processes to ensure the fair provision of job opportunities.
- Facilitate the process of traveling from, within, and to the Gaza Strip and other parts of Palestine.
- Deliver civic education and training programs to the youth to enhance the effectiveness of official decision-making processes and provide an opportunity for becoming active members of society.
- Establish an independent institution that would reach out to the donor community to provide necessary budgets for the implementation of this policy paper and ensure Palestine's fulfilment of its international obligations and responsibilities under international human rights law.

Long-term recommendations

- Publish annual reports.
- Enable the political participation of Palestinian youth in decision-making processes through general and local elections.
- Establish permanent knowledge-sharing mechanisms in-between Palestinian regions about the repercussions of this issue and the damage that it may bring about to the Palestinian cause.
- Pressure policymakers to enact laws and other official remedies to overcome this issue.

5) Implementation and Policy Options

The following table provides a suggested roadmap for the implementation of this policy paper, along with some possible policy options.

Recommendation	Short-term (months)			Medium-term (years)		Long-term (years)			Policy Option	
	0-6	6-12	12-18	1.5-2	2-3	3-5	5-7	7-10		
Reach out to NGOs and CSOs to launch advocacy and awareness campaigns that involve people from different cultural backgrounds within Palestinian society.									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews - Social media activities - Media and news coverage 	
Empower students at universities and schools by establishing partnerships with trainers and experts										Design workshops and focus groups that would help students learn more about the case
Establish twinning and exchange programs between educational institutions as well as NGOs and business sectors									Reach out to the Ministry of Education in Palestine and relevant organisations	

<p>Establish a permanent journal or online forum that gives an opportunity to Palestinians from all backgrounds to exchange their ideas</p>				<p>Websites</p> <p>Blogs</p> <p>Permeant social media platforms</p>
<p>Run a weekly show that addresses the issue of division and misinformation and emphasises their dangers</p>				<p>Create visual / audio content, direct TV series and/or movies and podcasts/radio programmes</p>
<p>Integrate Palestinian youth of different backgrounds to overcome the issue of hate speech through interviews and social media campaigns</p>				<p>Focus groups</p> <p>Communication groups</p> <p>Establish an open forum for public discussions</p>
<p>Form a youth representative committee led by individuals from different geographical locations to conduct ongoing advocacy campaigns</p>				<p>Establish a youth committee to ensure social cohesion and combat misinformation</p>
<p>Require NGOs and CSOs to carry out surveys to collect data about the different segments of minorities in Palestine and determine the right initiatives to launch based on their respective needs</p>				<p>Create a specialized committee with various working groups, each dedicated to the affairs of a given minority group, such as gypsies, Bedouins, and people with special needs</p>

Request that industrial and business unions monitor and evaluate hiring processes to ensure the fair provision of job opportunities			Include results in an annual report of monitoring and evaluation
Facilitate the process of traveling from, within, and to the Gaza Strip and other parts of Palestine			Improve infrastructure and services, establish direct lines of transport within Gaza Strip and within minorities and the West Bank and other places in Palestine.
Deliver civic education and training programs to the youth to enhance the effectiveness of official decision-making processes and provide an opportunity for becoming active members of society			Reach out to the Ministry of Education to include and/or strengthen civic education in the curriculum
Establish an independent institution that would reach out to the donor community to provide necessary budgets for the implementation of this policy paper and ensure Palestine's fulfilment of its international obligations and responsibilities under international human rights law			Contact the EU and other international development agencies, such as UNDP for funding

Publish annual reports			Task the Youth Committee to draft the Annual Report, in collaboration with CSOs and NGOs.
Enable the political participation of Palestinian youth in decision-making processes through general and local elections			Reach out to the Ministries of Education and Culture to include critical thinking, voting education and civic education in the curriculum
Establish permanent knowledge-sharing mechanisms between Palestinian regions about the repercussions of this issue and the damage that it may bring about to the Palestinian cause			Create a Committee of Regional Representatives to work in collaboration with the Youth Committee and the Committee for Minorities in implementing this recommendation
Pressure policymakers to enact laws and other official remedies to overcome this issue			Design various lobbying strategies by the different committees of this policy, working in collaboration NGOs and CSOs



NOTES / REFERENCES

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