

SAWA

Country: Palestine

Organisation responsible: SAWA

Period: Since 1998

Activity: SAWA is a Palestinian, non-profit civil society organization established in 1998 by a group of female volunteers active in women's issues. This organization works to eliminate all types of violence against women and children, and to promote gender equality in Palestinian society.



Objectives

Working against the prevailing culture of violence and promoting a culture of peace and security which serves human and community development in order to achieve a democratic society based on the principles of equality and social justice and on human rights.

Building a civil democratic progressive community free of all forms of discrimination and respects women rights as part of human rights in general.

Description

SAWA works toward the goals of this vision in several basic ways. Intensively trained volunteers and staff work at the national call center hot line, which is free for callers. Counseling and support is given and if needed, medical and legal guidance as well. People in need of SAWA's services can also contact them through email. In addition to the main call center, SAWA has a mobile clinic which allows them to conduct outreach programs in different parts of the community and outlying areas. SAWA also provides training and technical assistance for law enforcement, school personnel and others in the areas of domestic violence and abuse.

A special hotline for children was established by SAWA and became available for use in 2005. It is called the Palestinian Child Protection Helpline and is part of an international network of child help lines called Child Helpline International.

SAWA also publishes and distributes printed material for the purpose of education and awareness of physical, psychological and sexual violence. These efforts toward outreach resulted in the major role SAWA had/has in assisting victims of the siege of Gaza in 2008/09.

Beneficiaries

Palestinian Women and children.

GOAL 5: Promote gender justice and expose gender specificities

(95) Advocate for the implementation of protection mechanisms for vulnerable and targeted communities, including youth and women, to prevent them from embracing violent extremism (Sometimes under a double discrimination: gender and conflict situation).