

## **A press Release issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on the Occasion of the International Woman Day**

Within the framework of its proactive dissemination policy of official statistics, PCBS issued a press release on the eve of international woman day. A half of the Palestinian women aged 15 years and above are currently married, 1.3% widowed, 1.1% divorced, 0.2% separated and 39.3% are single according to the results of Palestinian family health survey (PAPFAM) conducted in 2006.

The preliminary results of the population, housing and establishment census conducted in 2007 indicated that the sex ratio is 103 males for 100 females, and the total number of males is 1,908,432 against 1,853,214 females.

The PAPFAM results showed important results on the latest demographic trends during the period 2000-2006. The outcome shows that there is a trend of increasing marriage age and increased tendency for celibacy. The rate of the never married females increased in the age below 24 years. This rate of the females aged (15-19) years, reached 90.9% in 2006 compared with 81.6% in 2000; and the rate of the never married females, aged (20-24) years, increased to reach 51.9% in 2006 compared with 39.9% in 2000.

The rate of the females aged 15 years and above who are currently enrolled in education is 23.0% versus 21.8% males. On the other hand, the data for the same period showed that 9.6% of the Palestinian females aged 15 years and above are illiterate versus 2.7% males, and 35.6% females holding preparatory certificate compared with 37.0% males, and 6.6% females holding bachelor degree and above compared with 9.8% males.

The labour force participation rate of females aged 15 years and above during the third quarter of 2007 in the Palestinian territory reached 15.7% versus 69.3% males. In West Bank, the rate is 17.9% females and 71.1% males; and in Gaza Strip 11.5% females against 66% for males. For unemployment, the rate of the unemployed females aged 15 years and above reached 22.1% versus 23.4% among males. But the rate of unemployment among the females who completed 13 years of education and above was higher than the rate among the males; this rate of unemployment reached 38.1% females versus 18.1% males during the same previous period. The rate of households headed by women is 8.0%, and the rate of poverty among these households reached 65.0% during 2006.

In the health sector in particular, the data of the records of the Ministry of Health, during 2006, indicate that the rate of women who work in the nursing sector is 53.1% of the total workers in this sector versus 46.9% men. In the meanwhile, the gap of the gender increases for the favor of men reach 89.2% compared with 10.8% women who work as physicians, and 81.3% men compared with 18.7% women who work as dentists.

The most recent statistics on the detainees showed that more than 700 women were detained during Al-Aqsa Intifada, from whom 98 women are still in detention. The rate of the detained women is less than 1% of the total detainees whose number exceeded 11,000 detainees by the end of 2007. From this rate are 4 female, detainees aged less than 18 years; there are 94 female detainees from the northern governorates and Jerusalem, and 4 female detainees from the southern governorates. The number of martyr women was 10 martyr, women during 2007.

At the political life level, the rate of female members of the Legislative Council reached 12.9% during 2006 compared with 5.7% in 1996. the rate of women who occupy the position of ambassador in the Palestinian Government reached 7.4% of the total number of ambassador during 2006. the rate of women who work as judges reached 11.2% of the total number of judges during 2006, and the rate of women who occupy the position of General Prosecutor reached 12.1% compared with 87.9% men during 2006.