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#### VACANCY Announcement

**Post Title:** Legal Advisor within OHCHR-oPt  
**Duty Station:** Ramallah  
**Duration:** 3 months  
**Deadline:**  
**Start Date:** Immediately  
**Remuneration:** dependent on qualifications and experience  
**Type of Contract:** Special Service Agreement

#### Background:

Grant No.

oPt has been selected as one of the priority countries for OHCHR's Women's Rights and Gender Unit to develop a gender strategy. The work in oPt will focus mainly on issues identified as most pressing; violence against women, including honour crimes, and all forms of domestic violence, which includes a variety of verbal, physical social, sexual (rape and incest) and psychological abuse.

In oPt there have been some efforts to combat violence against women by different civil society groups and NGOs, UN agencies with mixed support by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), though such efforts were scattered and in some cases were confronted with opposition from some components of the society. Although some good programs were designed and implemented, still violence against women is witnessing a dramatic increase.

Numbers released by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in a survey on domestic violence, conducted at the end of 2005, released in mid 2006, revealed an increase in violence against married women. The survey also revealed a higher percentage of physical violence in the West Bank than from Gaza Strip, and a higher percentage in urban areas than in refugee camps. Psychological violence in the West Bank urban areas was also higher, but in rural was higher than in refugee camps. Sexual violence in specific rated higher in the West Bank, in urban areas followed by rural and then refugee camps.

A lot of research was conducted by NGOs and supported by some donors and UN agencies; following is a non exhaustive list of studies which can be used as bases for our imitative in designing a strategy;

- A study titled "Mapping and analyzing the landscape of femicide in the Palestinian society", conducted by the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling on behalf of UNIFEM in January 2000.
- A study titled "Towards Gender Equality in the Palestinian Territories- a Profile on Gender relations", conducted by the Women's Studies Centre Birzeit University in 1999.
- A survey on domestic violence conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics in 2005.
- A study titled " Family violence against women, Gaza Strip, Prevalence, Causes, Consequences and Interventions, conducted by Women's Affairs Centre- Gaza 2001

There is no doubt that violence against women is an area that needs to be addressed in oPt in a

comprehensive manner. The development of a national strategy will combine all efforts invested in this area, in a way that will bring all actors in to the process.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

OHCHR's Women's Rights and Gender Unit, supported by OHCHR-oPt, is planning to design a strategy to combat violence against women in the Arab Region, among which oPt. Through piloting oPt, we will be producing a model that could be applied in different parts of the Arab Region as the issue of violence against women is a common issue, specifically in regards to honour crimes.

In consideration of existing activities and programmes conducted by various institutions, NGOs, UN and others, and in an attempt to coordinate as well as filling existing gaps, OHCHR would conduct an assessment focusing on:

- Definition of gender based violence (GBV) and domestic violence (DV) in the context of the oPt;
- Mapping of applicable legal frameworks in both Gaza and the West Bank (Basic Law, draft Constitution, penal codes including criminal procedures, family law, etc.) that directly or indirectly affects women;
- Mapping of policies in place addressing violence against women, whether direct or indirect, i.e. PA development plans, MDGs progress reports and poverty alleviation progress reports.
- Identification and mapping of referral mechanisms: established and working networks for victims of violence, i.e. police forces, lawyers, medical and psychological support;
- Mapping of existing governmental, semi governmental bodies dealing with women's affairs and analyse work relations and mandates undertaken by those bodies
- Recommendations on how to operationalize existing legislation

It is crucial to adopt a participatory approach in designing the strategy to safeguard ownership and successful implementation. Contacts with PA relevant bodies (Judiciary, Police, Parliament and Ministries), NGOs and civil society groups, UN and donor community are vital to generate support for the strategy, and guarantee success.

### **Competencies:**

General competencies:

- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- Planning and Organizing
- Communication
- Judgment and Decision Making
- High organizational skills
- Able to work efficiently with minimal direction

### **Minimum Qualifications:**

Education.

- A minimum of Masters Degree in Social Science, International Relations or Law.

Work Experience.

- Minimum five years experience in international relations, gender related activities, law practice or legal consultancies.
- Experience in assignments involving assessment and review of laws and regulations

Languages.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in both English and Arabic

Other considerations.

- Proven ability to work with partners, senior government officials and representatives of international agencies.
- Self-starter who can handle difficult tasks simultaneously, work under pressure while maintaining rigorous attention to details.
- Demonstrated task management skills.
- Demonstrate excellent analytical skills
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically

**Note:** The successful candidate will work for OHCHR-oPt and will be based in Ramallah. For more information on OHCHR, including its core values and competencies, please visit the OHCHR website at [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) .

To Apply:

Interested candidate should submit their CVs/P-11 form no latter than 31 August 2008 to :

Fax number: 02-298-9470 or by e-mail: [OHCHR-oPt@ohchr.org](mailto:OHCHR-oPt@ohchr.org)

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