



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Gaza

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The Democracy and Workers' Rights Center concludes an EU-funded training course in Gaza on social dialogue for women working in the informal economy

Ramallah – On July 28, 2010, the Democracy and Workers' Rights Center concluded a three day training course on social dialogue in its Gaza office, as part of the an EU funded project for protecting trade union rights and uniting efforts to influence socio-economic policies. The course was attended by 17 women, who are members of four committees in the Gaza Strip that represent women working in various sectors of the informal economy. The training sessions were run by unionists Salama Abu Z'teir and Ilias Al-Jilda, as well as trainer Abdel Karim Khaldi.

While the course addressed various aspects of social dialogue, its forms, and related skills, it also enabled participants to get acquainted with several ILO Conventions on freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively. The training topics also included types and levels negotiations, bargaining tactics, advantages, obstacles that might be encountered during bargaining processes and how to establish a negotiation's team.

Mohammed Abu Mahadi, DWRC's Gaza branch training coordinator, stated that the main objective of the course was to empower participants in the field of social dialogue and collective bargaining and reinforce the capacities of representatives of these marginalized economic sectors to undertake negotiations that would contribute to improving their socio-economic and organizational situation. He stressed the fact that female and male workers in the informal economy constitute an important part of the labor force and that they face problems with decision-makers and legislators that require interventions in order to find solutions.

Ms. In'am Al-Hisi, who is the head of the women's committee in Al-Shati refugee camp, said that she participated in the course to increase her skills and capacity to engage in negotiations and social dialogue with decision-makers in order to improve the situation of women in the informal economy. She said that she achieved her goal for the most part and acquired new knowledge.

Ms. Fathiya Abu Amra added that the course topics were important and encouraging, and that it contributes in improving dialogue between parties to labor relations in the Palestinian society. She became knowledgeable in the various themes addressed by the course and will be able to put them into practice through her work with the women's committee in the Middle Gaza governorate.

Ms. Awatef Abu Tuha, the head of the women's committee in the north Gaza governorate, declared benefiting greatly from the course, which will help her in her union work. She was able to understand the preparatory steps that need to be taken prior to engaging in dialogue with decision-makers and

believes that the knowledge and experience she acquired will contribute in fostering the idea of establishing social dialogue in work-related or other fields.

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