



مجلس الحكيمات



## Al-Hakimat Council مجلس الحكيمات

### Overview:

Al-Hakimat Council is a Palestinian feminist initiative that seeks to promote the Palestinian identity as a medium for addressing women's needs. The council takes its name from the Arabic word "Hakimat," which means wise women, and adopts the principle of citizenship to promote and legislate Palestinian identity.

The council is dedicated to supporting and encouraging Palestinian women's initiatives that reflect the Palestinian identity and continuously provide opportunities for emerging female leaders. It was founded by two esteemed scholars: Justice Somoud al-Damiri, the first female Chief Prosecutor of the Shari'a Prosecution and the first female member of the Shari'a Court of Appeal, and Judge Scarlet Bishara, the first female Judge in Ecclesiastical Court of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and legal adviser to the governor of Bethlehem. They both took the initiative to unite with their sisters and pave the way for others to join them in building a state that seeks to advance its citizens' interests in accordance with the notion of nationality.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) is committed to promoting gender equality and empowering women in Palestine through its partnership with Al-Hakimat Council. As part of the ELCJHL's Gender Justice Ministry, the church recognizes the importance of supporting the council's initiatives and programs that align with its mission to promote justice and equality for all.

This partnership is crucial to the ELCJHL's ongoing efforts towards social justice in Palestine. By supporting initiatives that seek to advance women's rights and address their needs, the church is working towards building a more just and equitable society. It is another manifestation of the ELCJHL's commitment to this cause.

Moreover, the partnership between the ELCJHL and the Al-Hakimat Council highlights the church's dedication to promoting interfaith dialogue and cooperation. This collaboration serves as a testament to the power of joint efforts towards a common goal, and the ELCJHL is proud to be a part of it.



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## Aims:

Al-Hakimat Council has several aims that it hopes to achieve through its initiatives and programs. First and foremost, the council seeks to empower women in Palestine by promoting gender equality and ensuring that women have equal access to opportunities. This includes working to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination and promoting women's participation in decision-making processes at all levels.

The council also seeks to promote the Palestinian identity as a means of addressing women's needs. This involves working to ensure that women's experiences and voices are included in discussions about national identity and promoting a collective Palestinian awareness of citizenship rights that transcends religion and gender.

In addition, the council aims to provide new interpretations of religious texts that support women's rights and improve their legal reality. This includes working to challenge patriarchal interpretations of religious texts that have been used to justify discrimination and oppression against women.

The council also recognizes the importance of addressing new global issues, such as technology and climate change, and their impact on women's interests. The council aims to play an active role in addressing these issues and harnessing technology to provide services to women.

Finally, the council is committed to creating a new generation of female leaders in various fields. The council provides opportunities for women to develop their skills and knowledge, and it seeks to support and encourage Palestinian women's initiatives that reflect the Palestinian identity. The council believes that by empowering women and promoting gender equality, it can help to create a better future for all Palestinians.



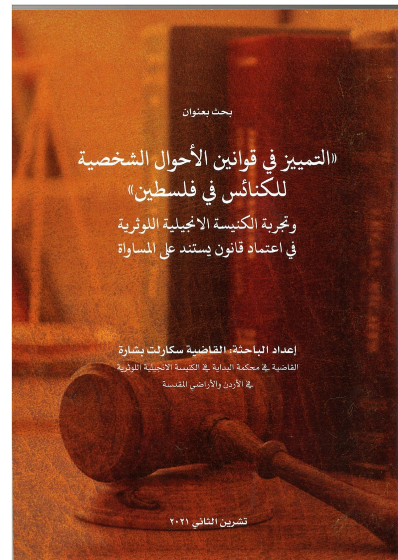
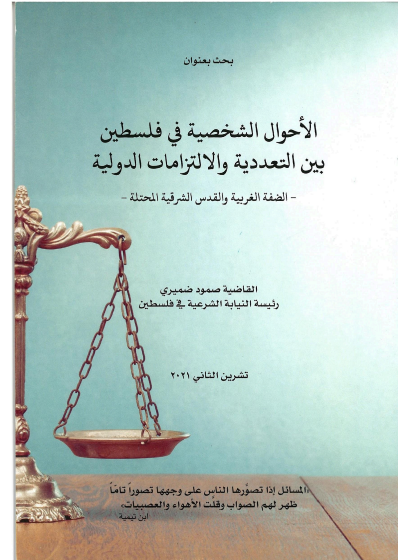
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### Accomplishments:

The ELCJHL Gender justice ministry worked closely with Al-Hakimat council to develop advocacy material as part of the YW4A (Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy and Accountability) project. This included collaborating with Judge Somoud al Damiri and Judge Scarlet Bishara to conduct research on faith-based personal status laws in Palestine, with a focus on identifying discriminatory laws against women and examining how they contradict international human rights standards. The advocacy material aimed to raise awareness and promote accountability around these issues.

The advocacy material were presented at the ELCJHL Gender Justice annual conferences on gender justice from a national and religious perspective. These conferences provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to discuss and address issues related to gender justice within a religious and national context. The presentations of the advocacy material allowed for a deeper exploration of the discriminatory personal status laws in Palestine and the need for gender justice in all aspects of society. By presenting this material at the conferences, the ELCJHL Gender Justice ministry aimed to raise awareness and encourage action towards promoting gender equality in Palestine.





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Another notable accomplishment of Al-Hakimat council was the development of a book entitled "Similar Stories - Wives: The H of Heaven in Hell" written by Judge Somoud Al Damiri. In this book, Judge Somoud shares stories from her thirteen-year experience as a judge, handling various family disputes such as marriage, divorce, orphans, inheritance, and other legal issues from different parts of Palestine, including refugees abroad. The book sheds light on how the rules of family stability can weaken, leading to public disputes and legal action. This book is a valuable resource for anyone seeking insight into the legal system and family issues in Palestine.

