

# Palestinian Women for Change

المرأة الفلسطينية مانعة التغيير



## A participatory journey began as an elected member at the municipal council and an ambition to be chair it

**Leila Houshia - 41 a year old - a mother of six children, an elected member of a municipal council since the last elections in Yamoun Municipality in Jenin, a member of several committees such as the Committee of Education and Committee of culture and the Committee of Women's Affairs what enabled her to assess most of the needs of her community.**

I have been involved in "promoting women's participation in political and public life" program at all its levels theoretical and practical, and was able to gain the necessary knowledge about the work of the local councils regulations, laws and how networking and dealing with the media can be employed in pursuing an issues, advocacy, preparation of budgets and activate community participation all that was applied across several training, workshops and public meetings with the local community of 22 thousand people in Yamoun.

Based on my knowledge about students' problems and concerns as a member of the Students Parents Council for more than a decade, and my desire to meet community needs I with consultation from CPWP crystallized the idea to rent a new building (based on the fact that this will serve the of remote areas population to avoid problems concerning students living fare away from school) since some of them are forced to walk more than 3 kilometers to get to school, not forgetting that the old school building is overcrowded with a high expose to many problems of assault and harassment, particularly as female students need to walk through long complex roads exposed for heavy trafficking cars what exposes them to constantly run over and accidents. I went at the beginning to the school principal and put explained the idea after I have skip all challenges from the municipal council, and the

*"The first step towards realizing my dream was the realization of my role towards serving and solving the most urgent needs of my community"*



only way was to address Jenin educational Directorate for approval to hire a building under the mosque Alhoucahya area to be opened at the early academic year of 2012/2013, although the rented school space lacks the yard, but it solves the problem and opened the door for us to seek a fully integrated school in the future. This issue was not to be solved or resolve without the support of AWCSW work and guidance and follow-up facilitating access to decision-makers and the authorized governmental departments, as well as the support by local community who donated and provided all the needs of the rehabilitation of the new rented building.

Reaching a solution was not easy, it has been a long journey crowned by success where we worked long nights on one hand over months, this work was a dream of many mothers who have shown their desire to be part of this journey. This was not possible without the support of the formed CPWP's "Committees to Promote Women Participation in political and Public Life" that supported me in identifying the needs of the town of Yamoun and work on the follow-up systematically.



## Musharka

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