

## Message from the Editor

Living in a patriarchal, traditional society that is under occupation, Palestinian women have a tough stance. While the occupation – deemed unlawful in October 2022 by a UN-appointed Commission of Inquiry – violates the political and human rights of all Palestinians, it affects girls and women more harshly than men. For example, men may genuinely feel that settler attacks and IDF violations pose too great a danger for women to leave their village – while some others may use this reason as a pretext to curtail the freedom of movement of their wives, sisters, and daughters, and thereby limit their educational and job opportunities. Also, by severely restricting access to livestock grazing areas and forcibly urbanizing many Bedouin communities, Israel has deprived Bedouins of their source of livelihood, which affects Bedouin women in particular. Living the traditional nomadic lifestyle, women prepared and sold dairy products and managed the family finances, but when they lost these roles, they also lost income, influence, and respect in their families and communities. Moreover, women in disadvantaged Palestinian communities are more prone to being victims of domestic violence while the occupation restricts their freedom of movement; limits their access to agricultural lands, medical care, or job opportunities; denies building permits and demolishes their homes while expanding Israeli settlements; and increasingly gives free rein to rampaging settlers and a license to kill to their soldiers. Acknowledging these hardships, this issue also celebrates women activists, defenders of human and women's rights, athletes, and professionals.

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Our two personalities of the month are Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi and Sama Fayez Aweidah. Our three books of the month are *Rftvrojog* by Vera Tamari, *Uhfz!Qlft d! M!lb!Mpf ttt* by Ahed Tamimi and Dena Takruri, and *Xf!Bf!QlftttjQjQ*, a children's book by Reem Kassis, illustrated by Noha Eilouti. Enjoy visiting the listed events.

The entire team at *UKjQ* wishes you a Happy Women's Day and a more peaceful month ahead!

**Tina Basem**

