MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Ego-driven hegemonic aspirations of (predominantly male) world leaders, largely unchecked due to a prevailing Western colonial mindset that fails to stand up to violations of human rights and international law, are dragging the whole world into a conflict whose dimensions, duration, and consequences no one can entirely predict. Palestinian women have grappled for decades with an oppressive occupation in a male-dominated cultural and political environment, yet they are rising to the challenge and excelling on many levels. In addition to the long history of women who have engaged in community development, the fight for voting rights, the education of girls and women, and the resistance to occupying powers, contemporary Palestinian women are successfully running businesses, participating in political and economic leadership, sitting on boards that shape Palestine's economic future and sustainable development, engaging in solidarity movements, and creating films, art, and music. Women are volunteering and working as educators and health professionals in many places, including the occupied West Bank, which is under unprecedented attack by settlers, supported and shielded by the Israeli army. They do so also under the most dangerous and dire conditions in Gaza, where a genocide is taking place, albeit at a slower pace today. As the definition of genocide indicates: The intention matters. And with Israel limiting the delivery of lifesaving humanitarian aid, including food, water, fuel, and medical aid, and doing its utmost to prevent aid agencies access to the strip, the situation for Gazans is beyond abysmal. Yet women continue against all odds to do their best to feed and care for others – be they children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, or those who have been war-injured, whether family members or neighbors.

This March issue of *This Week in Palestine* highlights such achievements and outlines some of the challenges that women face, whether from patriarchal societal norms or the tactics used by the occupation to extend its reach and power.

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The entire team at *TWiP* wishes a blessed Women's Day, Mother's Day, and Eid al-Fitr to all who are celebrating, and an end to the wars in the region and beyond.



Tina Basem