

The Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum: Advocacy for Palestine

MEDIA ADVISORY: Representatives from 60 European and Palestinian civil society organisations join forces to reshape their advocacy for Palestine

Ramallah, 28 October 2022 – From Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 November 2022, **60 Palestinian and European human rights and civil society organisation** will reunite at the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Al Bireh to address key challenges facing civil society engagement in and with Palestine, update their key advocacy guidelines and build a common voice about Palestine in the first edition of the **Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum**.

The event will be attended by more than **100 participants from 13 European countries** (Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), Palestine and Israel as well as international diplomats, Palestinian government officials and development cooperation officials.

This three days Forum filled with plenary sessions, panel discussions and workshops will be preceded by three days of tours all over the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and the Palestinian community in Israel. UNSR on the OPT **Francesca Albanese** will participate remotely and present her recent report on the human rights situation in the OPT at 15.00 on Tuesday 8 November. PA Minister of Jerusalem Affairs **Fadi Al-Hadmi** and EUREP **Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff** will give speeches during the opening session at 9.30 on Monday 7 November. PA Prime Minister **Mohammad Shtayyeh** will give a speech over the dinner on 5 November at 18.30 (timing to be confirmed).

The event is funded by the European Union and selected European countries and is organized by the [JHRC](#), [PNGO](#) and [PNIN](#) in Palestine, [EuroMed Rights](#), [ECCP](#) and [ELSC](#) in Europe, in cooperation with many Palestinian and European national networks and CSOs.

Journalists are invited to attend any of the above-mentioned sessions. Language regime English – Arabic (simultaneous interpretation).

Prior registration of media representatives is requested. For media coverage, registration, or interview requests, please contact:

Media contact: Samera Ayyad, Communications Coordinator at JHRC, jhrc.comms@jlac.ps, +393488966055 (for WhatsApp) or +972 594291900.

Background: For more information see www.csforum.ps and FAQs attached.

This Project is Funded by



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum?

A. A six-day event reuniting the principal Palestinian and European human rights and civil society actors active in and for Palestine to join forces, update their key advocacy guidelines and build a common voice in regard to Palestine. It will take place in Palestine from 4 to 9 November 2022 and is organized by the [JHRC](#), [PNGO](#) and [PNIN](#) in Palestine, [EuroMed Rights](#), [ECCP](#) and [ELSC](#) in Europe, in cooperation with many Palestinian and European national networks and CSOs.

Q. What will be the structure of the Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum?

A. The Forum will span over the course of three days filled with plenary sessions, panel discussions, workshops and a cultural evening to be held at the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Al Bireh (from 7 to 9 November). Prior to the official programme, there will be three days of tours all over the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and the Palestinian community in Israel, to give participants the chance to gain first-hand experience of the reality on the ground (from 4 to 6 November).

Q. Why is the Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum needed?

A. While there are some encouraging coordination efforts between local and international civil society actors, the rapidly reality for civil society as well as the lack of progress towards the two-state solution calls for stronger cooperation and coordination between the Palestinian and international civil society.

Q. What are some of the topics that will be discussed during the Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum?

A. The Forum will tackle Jerusalem's present and future challenges; the notions of apartheid, self-determination, and ethnic cleansing; the shrinking space facing civil society organisations and individuals working in and/or for Palestine; settlements and annexation; social media and modern activism; as well as knowledge sharing and prospects of cooperation.

Q. Who is participating in the Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum?

A. The Forum is anticipating an audience of more than 100 civil society and human rights actors from 13 European countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), Palestine and Israel. In addition, international diplomats, Palestinian government officials, journalists and development



cooperation officials will attend certain sessions as observers and/or keynote speakers.

Q. What are the main objectives of the Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum?

A. The Forum aims to 1. create a space for Palestinian and European civil society organisations that work in Palestine and for Palestine to meet, network, and agree on new strategies and tools to address the current-day challenges they are facing. And 2. set up a permanent follow-up mechanism that would facilitate the civil society cooperation and amplify the advocacy efforts in regard to Palestine, influence the international community, including the EU institutions and the EU Member States, follow-up on the implementation of the Forum recommendations, and finally lead the organization of the future Forum rounds, as mandated by the Forum participants.

Q. What are the expected outcomes of the Palestinian-European Civil Society Forum?

A. The expected outcomes are developing recommendations on key positions and messages for civil society advocacy and engagement with and for Palestine, including specific recommendations on key issues. A joint call for international actors and the set-up of a permanent follow-up mechanism to coordinate and lead the development of those recommendations.





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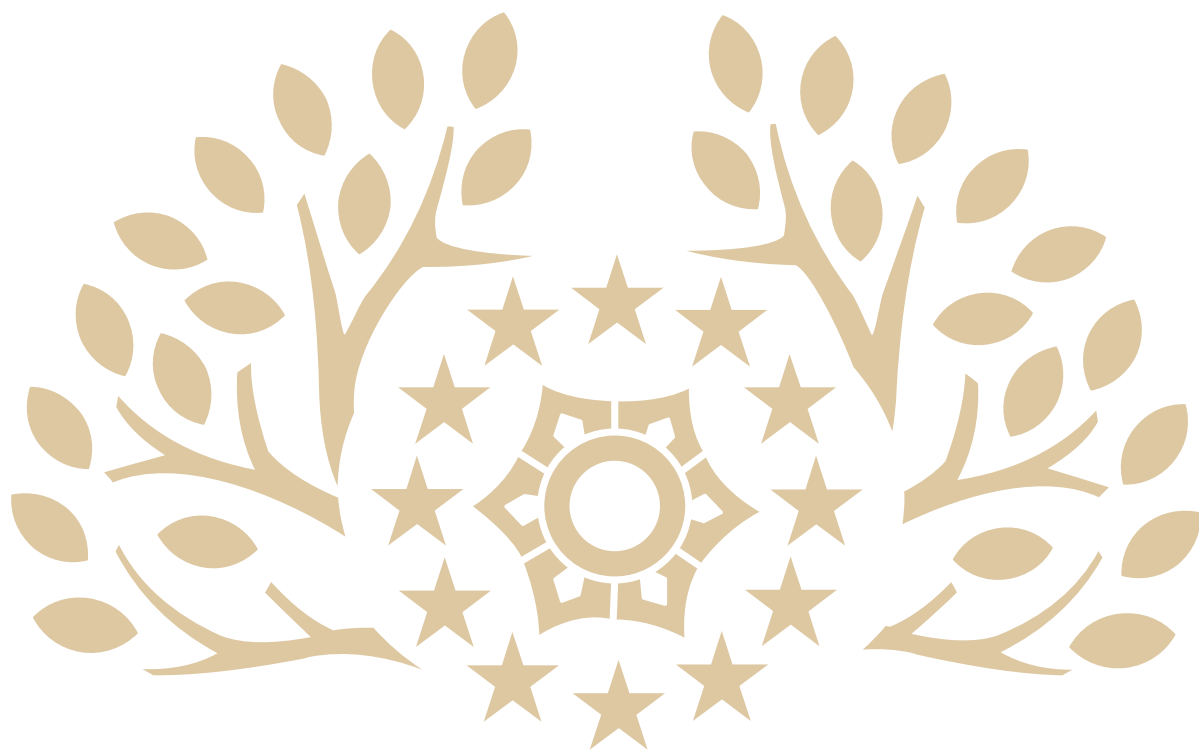
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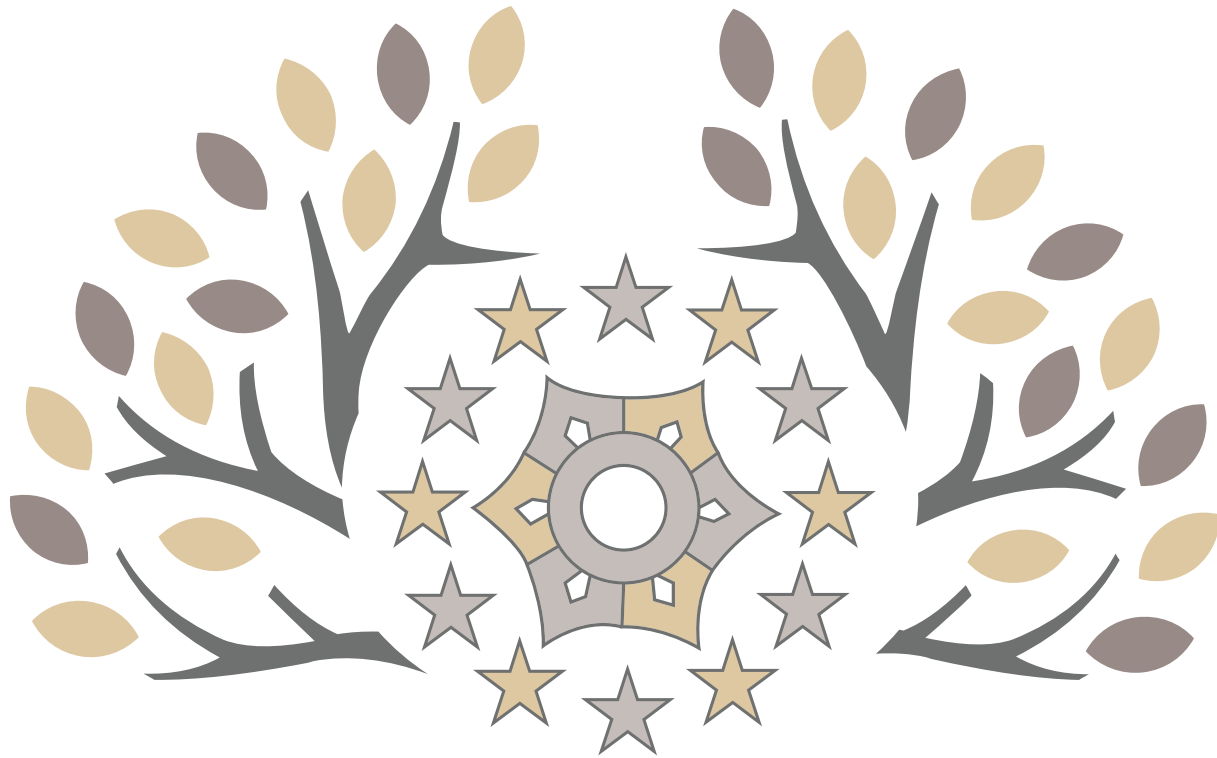
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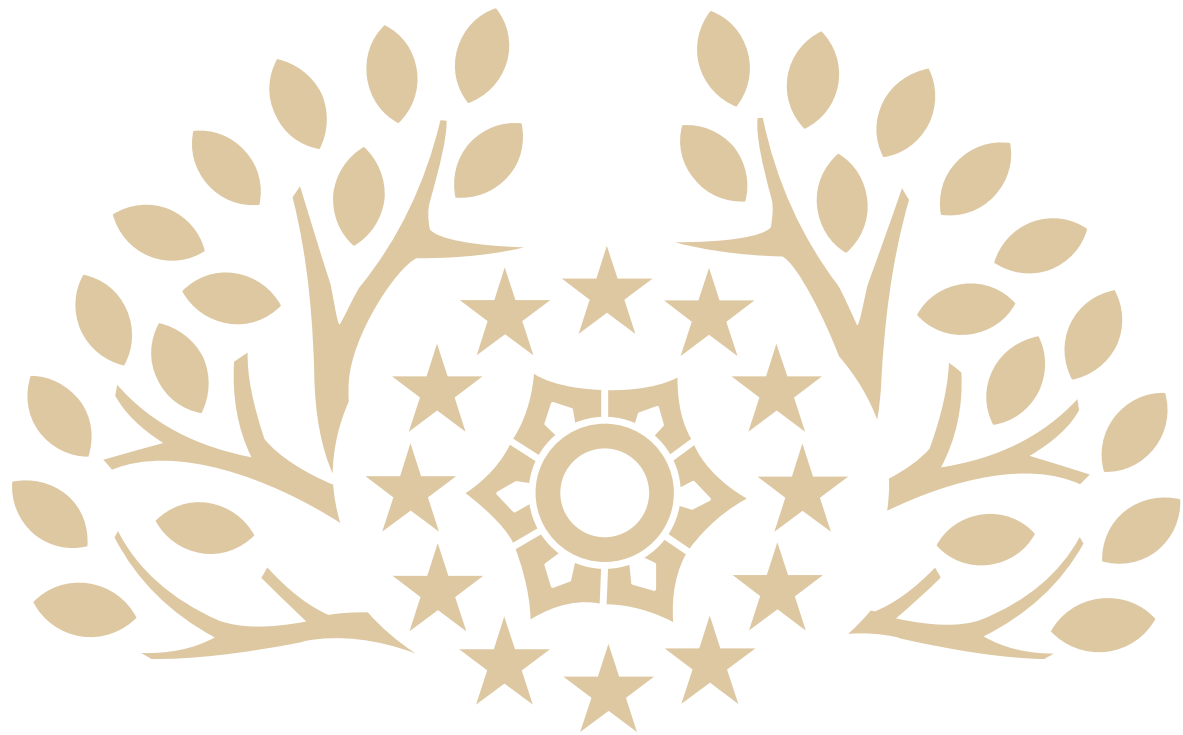
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