



## Birzeit University's Institute of Women's Studies' 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference

### Formations of Violence within Palestinian Reality: Colonialism, Power Structures, and Gender Relations

A main issue that emerged from the 2009 conference was the urgent need to be more critically and systematically address how violence in all its forms has played a major role in re-structuring gender relations and roles in the society over the past decade. As urgent has been the need to find analytical means to better bring into synergy the work of disparate sectors working on issues of violence from different disciplines and locations. For instance, those who work on gender based violence from a human rights based approach have very little synergy with the approaches used by activists working on issues of domestic violence. Likewise, sociological approaches to the impact of military violence on the society rarely deal with these as violations of international and humanitarian law. Issues of protection are marginalized from issues of gender-based violence etc...

The conference aims to discuss the frameworks employed to study and analyzing colonial, national and gender power relations and violence, within the context of Israeli ongoing colonial domination of the West Bank and Gaza. The conference panels are organized around the following topics:

- a) A discussion of the International theoretical and conceptual approaches to studying and analyzing formations of violence, power relations and gender relations.
- b) A presentation and evaluation of the approaches employed by Palestinian academics and NGOs activists for studying and analyzing three main types of violence, traditionally defined as separated in the Palestinian discourse: colonial violence, domestic violence and national violence.
- c) Connecting the theoretical frames and the local research practice in order to develop a more cross-cutting analysis of gender and violence across various spheres of life, as well as across differing intellectual and activist sectors of the Palestinian context.