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# **Palestinian Social Movements Documentation Form**



**Movement for a Dignified Life for  
Persons with Disabilities in Palestine**

## 1. Section One: Basic Information

1. Name of the Movement:  
Movement for a Dignified Life for Persons with Disabilities in Palestine
2. Year of Establishment:  
2018
3. Geographical Location/Spread:  
Governorates of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip
4. Nature of the Movement (multiple choices allowed):  
Social
5. Does the movement have an official name or slogan?  
The Movement for a Dignified Life for Persons with Disabilities in Palestine

## 7. Section Two: Background and Establishment

Motivation and context that launched the movement (event/crisis/issue/demand):

- The movement was initiated by five persons with disabilities across Palestinian governorates. They organized sit-ins demanding the establishment of a union dedicated to people with disabilities. After the union was incorporated into the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), it failed to meet the needs and demands of persons with disabilities in Palestine. Its operations negatively affected even the most basic rights of this group. This led the movement's founders to evaluate the union's policies, identify gaps and their impact, and continue advocating for basic rights—particularly healthcare rights.
  - The movement consistently engages in activities and sit-ins to change institutional and governmental attitudes toward persons with disabilities.
6. 8. Founding Group (independent individuals, activists, unions, institutions, etc.):
  7. A group of young men and women with disabilities from various Palestinian governorates
  8. Organizational Structure (if any):
    - There is no vertical structure. The movement relies on five individuals working collectively on disability issues. One spokesperson represents the movement.

9. Decision-making Mechanism:

- Proposals are presented by individual members, discussed, adopted, and followed up on by the group collectively.

10. Is the movement officially registered?

Yes, the movement is officially registered. It gave rise to the General Union for Persons with Disabilities, which is registered under the PLO. The movement continues its work and regularly issues statements, petitions, and organizes workshops targeting all persons with disabilities.

## Section Three: Goals and Vision

11. Short-Term Goals:

The movement engages in critical and practical efforts to change governmental and institutional policies regarding people with disabilities. Driven by a belief in social justice and full societal inclusion, it focuses on the right to health as a central demand—advocating for fair, comprehensive, and needs-adapted health services and ensuring access to rights without discrimination or exclusion.

12. Long-Term Goals:

The movement aims to change societal perceptions of persons with disabilities by raising awareness about their rights and enhancing their presence in all areas of life. It seeks to influence public opinion and dismantle stereotypes through awareness campaigns, inclusive cultural activities, and responsible media coverage. It also works to empower persons with disabilities and support their active participation in civil and cultural life as contributors rather than passive recipients.

13. 14. Core Message/Vision of the Movement:

A civic movement striving to secure the rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in international conventions and standards. It presses official institutions to uphold these rights and solve the issues faced by this significant segment of Palestinian society to ensure justice, equality, and full inclusion.

14. Target Group(s) (youth, women, workers, marginalized areas, etc.):

All segments of society among persons with disabilities

## Section Four: Activities and Impact

### 15. Main Types of Activities:

- Demonstrations / Protests
- Media campaigns / Workshops
- Advocacy and lobbying

### 16. Examples of Key Activities Carried Out:

The Palestinian Disability Movement undertakes various activities as part of its broader societal struggle for rights:

- **Open Sit-in for Health Insurance:** A 64-day sit-in inside the Palestinian Legislative Council demanded a comprehensive, free government health insurance system for persons with disabilities and their families. This resulted in the government's approval of a new system in 2021, officially published in the official gazette.
- **Monitoring Implementation:** Despite the official approval, no real change occurred on the ground, prompting continued pressure for implementation.
- **Engaging Oversight and Official Bodies:** The movement sent letters to the Prime Minister, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Audit Bureau to ensure proper enforcement and address failures.
- **Participation in Broader Movements:** The movement actively joins solidarity activities and popular protests alongside professional unions like those of doctors and lawyers. It affirms that disability rights are integral to the broader Palestinian struggle for justice and social rights.

### 17. Impact (local, national, media, legal, etc.):

- The movement has had local, media, and legal impact.

### 18. Key Achievements / Changes Realized:

- The adoption of Health Insurance System No. 2 of 2021 for persons with disabilities in Palestine and follow-up through various initiatives.

## Section Five: Challenges and Continuity

### 19. Main Obstacles Faced:

Despite persistent efforts, the movement faces several challenges:

- **Security Interference:** Security services affiliated with the Palestinian Authority often question the movement's motives, accusing it of external agendas to delegitimize and restrict its work.
- **Societal Harassment:** Members face social and professional harassment, including movement restrictions and limited interaction with institutions, leading to isolation and hesitancy toward engagement.
- **Israeli Occupation:** Like other Palestinian social movements, it contends with restrictions from the ongoing occupation, especially in Gaza, such as mobility restrictions, service interruptions, and pressure on civil society.

### 20. Is the movement still active?

Yes, it remains active and cohesive despite challenges, adapting to current political and social conditions.

### 21. 22. Are there efforts to reactivate or sustain the movement?

Yes, the movement is ongoing and currently active.

## Section Six: Relations and Support

### 22. Does the movement have partnerships with local or international institutions?

There are no formal partnerships, but some support comes from civil society organizations.

### 23. Has the movement received any support (financial/moral/technical)?

Yes, it has received:

- Moral support from civil society institutions
- Technical support via government facilitation of access to protests

- Legal support through human rights activists involved in drafting the health insurance system

24. Has the movement faced opposition or attacks from certain entities?

Yes, it has faced negative stances and unfounded accusations from official institutions, but it continues to stand firm in its mission.

## Section Seven: Additional Information

25. Name of the person filling out this form:

Hamad Ahmad Hamad Samamrah

26. His role in the movement:

Founder and activist in the Movement for a Dignified Life for Persons with Disabilities in Palestine

27. Contact Information (optional):

- Email: Hamadahmad.sam@gmail.com
- Phone: +972567700771