



EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - March 2021

Dear friends,

March is a time when a lot of attention is paid to the issue of gender equality, with International Women's Day falling on 8 March and events and awareness raising activities happening throughout the the month.



At EUPOL COPPS, we put the issue of gender equality at the heart of our work. Throughout the world, it is clear that societies with greater gender equality are safer and more secure. As a Mission with a mandate to support reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice institutions and enhance civilian security, promoting gender equality is therefore a core objective of ours.

In this month's newsletter, we look three women - one Palestinian, one European and one from our contingent of Canadian colleagues. Each is highly

qualified and advancing the objective of gender equality in their respective fields.

As well as being a month for reflecting on gender equality, our regular work goes on. Providing strategic advice is one of our most important tasks, and we are delighted to be supporting the Palestinian Civil Police as they move forward with their new five year strategy.

Soon Ramadan will start, and like last year, it will be one of those periods without the sociability that we usually expect. It does seem however that an end to this pandemic is hopefully in sight. I am certainly looking forward to celebrating festivals with our Palestinian friends and hosts, as well as international colleagues living here, as soon as possible!

Kind regards,

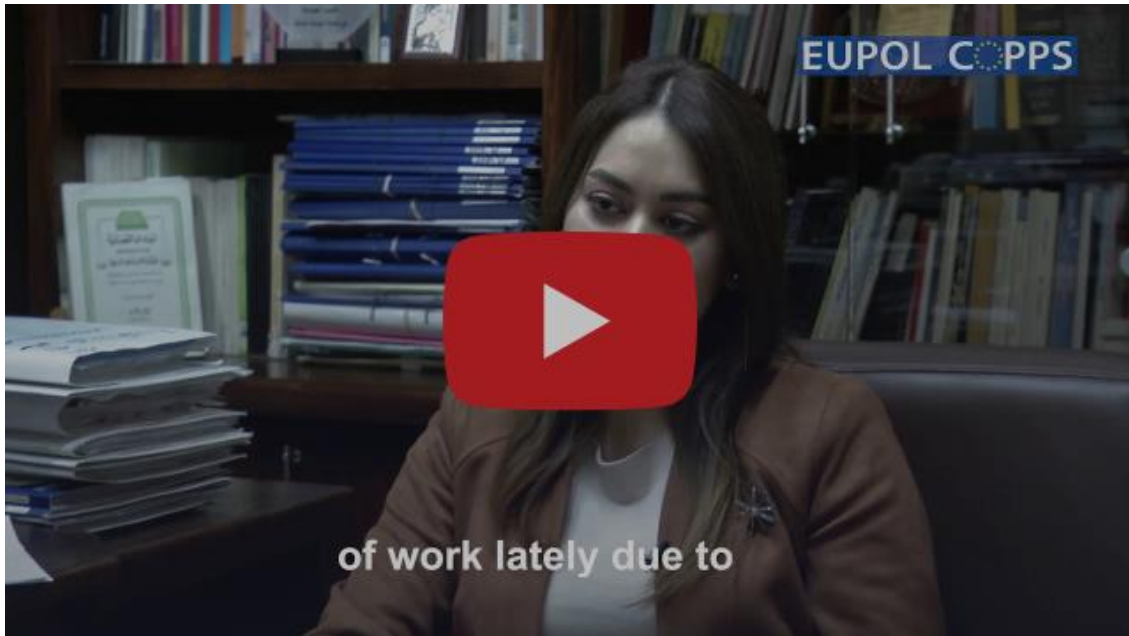
Nataliya

Nataliya Apostolova

Head of Mission

EUPOL COPPS

**VIDEO: Supporting women's
empowerment and leadership**



We are proud to support women's empowerment and leadership.

One of our recent activities to advance gender equality is supporting the establishment of a new network of Palestinian women lawyers.

Suhaila Khlaif, from Bethlehem, is a member of that network.

<https://youtu.be/Ta6vzUz-bkg>

**“Communication and cooperation are key
to solving crimes”**



“Communication and cooperation are key to solving crimes,” says Hillevi Johansson, a Swedish Police Superintendent, who advises the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) on criminal investigations. Having previously worked in international missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Liberia, Johansson isn’t fazed by many challenges. Instead, she focuses on promoting small, but important changes that might improve police operations.

<https://eupolcoppes.eu/en/node/5815>

"If you are going to the police, you need to feel safe"



Leanne Butler, from Canada's Prince Edward Island, has over three decades of experience in police work investigating child abuse and domestic violence. As part of an agreement Canada has with the EU, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police sends highly qualified police advisers to EUPOL COPPS in order to support the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP). In Butler's case, this involves working with the PCP's Family Protection Unit in order to boost capacity in the fight against abuse which takes place within the home.

"I am very honoured to be working with Colonel Wafa Muammar, who leads the Family Protection Unit, and her team," says the Canadian expert. "They really care about the victims, and are doing their best, even though they face a lot of challenges. As part of my work, I have travelled to different police districts across the West Bank. I met police officers who hadn't been paid for months [as a result of financial pressures facing the Palestinian Authority]. Whatever the difficulties, they still carry out their work to prevent and investigate domestic violence. This makes you realise how committed they are".

<https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5813>

EUPOL COPPS provides support to Palestinian Civil Police's new 5-year strategy



“We are delighted to be supporting the PCP with their new strategy, and particularly happy that the PCP have announced their intention to aim for higher standards in terms of human rights and gender,” said Menno van Bruggen, Senior Police Adviser at EUPOL COPPS, and one of the police experts who delivered the Ramallah training. “It is also very positive that the PCP are consulting widely on this strategy, involving different stakeholders, such as local authorities, as well as international experts”.

<https://eupolcoppes.eu/en/node/5809>



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