

Below: Dr. Magdy Kakiki, Conference coordinator and a UNDP officer in Ramallah, Zahira Kamal, Minister of Women's Affairs of Palestinian National Authority and Haideh Moghissi, Director of DIG project at the conference in Ramallah



**(DIG) project was one of four sponsors of an international conference on Gender, Displacement, Memory and Agency, held in Ramallah, West Bank, March 4-6.**

The conference was co-sponsored by Diaspora, Gender and Islam project; INSAN Centre of Gender Studies, Al-Quds University, East Jerusalem; Ministry of Women's Affairs; and United Nations Development Program with the cooperation of UNDP. Dignitaries at the conference included Salam Fayyad, Palestinian minister of finance, and human rights activist Hannan Ashrawi, director of the MIFTAH (Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy), and representatives of the UNDP, the Canadian International Development Agency and various non-governmental organizations.

The conference was opened by Zahira Kamal, Palestinian minister of women's affairs, and Ahmad Abdulrahman, representative of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who read the president's address to the more than 150 academics, politicians and members of international and national NGOs from the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Australia, Italy and Norway. Palestinian universities such as Al-Quds and Palestine's Bir-zeit University were also represented. Some of the papers presented at the conference included 'collective memory and knowledge'; the experience of Palestinian women in Lebanon; Transformative power of memory and silence; A comparative analysis of diasporic experience of Jews and Palestinians, Female republican prisoners in Northern Ireland; and Palestinian women in Brooklyn, Ohio. The Canadian delegation consisted of scholars from York and Queen's University. Publication of the conference proceedings is being considered by the organizers.