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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE

2017/16

Ramallah, 9 October 2017

“Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers”: Celebration of World Teachers’ Day in Ramallah



Ramallah – The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and UNESCO jointly celebrated the World Teachers’ Day at an event held today at the Ramallah Cultural Palace to honor teachers in Palestine. This year’s theme ***Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers***, emphasizes the significance of empowered teachers and identifies the challenges many teachers face all over the world. The World Teachers’ Day celebration in Palestine brought together teachers, trainers, policy-makers, as well as education development partners and other education stakeholders to honor all teachers in Palestine and share the progress towards the professionalization of the teaching profession.

In his opening remarks, his Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Sabri Saidam, emphasized the *special measures in support of professionalization of teachers, included in the basic education law ratified earlier this year*. He further elaborated that *this year will be the year of higher education and we will focus all our efforts on partnering with higher education institutions to ensure quality higher education in Palestine*.

The UNESCO Representative to Palestine, Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, emphasized the long-standing support of UNESCO to *the development of the Commission for Developing the*



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Teaching Profession (CDTP), as part of UNESCO's work to advance Education through teacher training and professional standards for teachers. Teachers – Dr. Folin Calabi said – *are not only a means to implementing education goals; they are the key to sustainability and national capacity in achieving learning and creating societies based on knowledge, values and ethics*. He further reiterated that qualified teachers are essential for quality education and that *teachers are a critical foundation of every society's long-term strength*.

During the event, a video entitled *Palestinian Icons* was screened, highlighting the importance of professional standards for teachers and shedding a light on the commitment and hard work of teachers in Palestine. This was followed by introductory remarks of representatives from UNRWA, the Teacher Union, and the Representative of ILO, Mr. Mounir Kleibo, who all highlighted the importance of freedom, social justice and human dignity for all workers, especially teachers. The event ended with a ceremony to honor distinguished teachers.

Held annually and around the world on 5 October since 1994, World Teachers' Day commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the 1966 UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, which celebrated its 50th anniversary during last year's edition.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit www.unesco.org/ramallah and follow us on : [Unesco Ramallah Office](https://www.facebook.com/UnescoRamallahOffice)

For more information on this event, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Public Information Officer of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at m.beltaji@unesco.org