



The Association of Environmental Justice in Israel (AEJI)
المنظمة للعدل البيئي העמותה לצדק סביבתי (ע"ר)

"Women, Environment and Local Economy in the Arab and Periphery Communities in Israel"

Special Session on

**Development of women's employment sources within the framework of
local environmental initiatives**

In the Knesset Committee of the Status of Women and Gender Equality

World Environment Day

June 5, 2018



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Among the 17 UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) for 2030 are 'End poverty' (Goal 1), 'Good health and wellbeing' (Goal 3), 'Gender equality' (Goal 5), 'Decent work and economic growth' (Goal 8), 'Reduced inequality' (goal 10), and environmental protection goals targeting water, energy, climate and biodiversity.

The topic before us - "Women, Environment and Local Economy in the Arab and Periphery Communities in Israel" - aims to achieve the above goals set by the United Nations as a common goal in Israel to advance women, thereby endorsing the family, community and society.

Achieving this super-goal is possible only through lateral cooperation that will include government ministries, local and regional government authorities, economic entities and civil society organizations that will, in a government decision, formulate a national program for the integrated advancement of employment solutions for women and solutions to environmental nuisances. Conduct solutions for environmental problems in different localities can be achieved by turning the environmental hazards into a material resource for the employment of women, thus contributing to economic development, while advance the status of women among the community in the communities and improving the environment.

Background

According to various international data, including the Eurobarometer, there is a gender difference in environmental activities: Women are considered more environmental than men in various environmental areas, including water saving, recycling, energy consumption, when it comes to volunteering, but men lead environmental activities that are not voluntary and are carried out For payment.

¹ The Israeli Parliament. The discussion will be conducted in Hebrew.



Considering the socio-economic characterization of Israel, primarily the lack of suitable sources of employment for women, especially in peripheral and Arab communities, the lack of proper public transportation that prevents social and economic mobility for women in Arab traditional society, coupled with the crisis of waste treatment in Israel and low national recycling rates by international standards, It is worth thinking about practical solutions that will serve as an employment and economic solution on the one hand, while simultaneously reducing the quantities of waste that are transferred to landfills or dumped illegally in open, unregulated areas, causing environmental and health nuisances and economic exploitation of natural resources.

Proposal for discussion Development of women's employment sources within the framework of local environmental initiatives

The Association of Environmental Justice in Israel (AEJI)'s proposal is to hold special meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality on the occasion of World Environment Day, which will focus on the Development of women's employment sources within the framework of local environmental initiatives. Following this first discussion in the framework of the committee headed by MK Aida Touma-Suleiman, it will be possible to develop an outline for a national work plan for Arab and peripheral communities for women's and environmental initiatives.

Examples

Various environmental activities can be a source of employment for women, especially in peripheral communities. As examples, these activities include:

- Collecting and sorting packaging for recycling by women and transporting them in cooperation with the recycling corporations. In this model the packaging payment will be transferred to the women engaged in the project through the local authority.
- Establishing a framework for local economic initiatives that are of interest to women, based on materials that can be recycled, and created by traditional knowledge of economic value, such as the production of natural cosmetics, or of local food and more. These activities will serve as a source of income for women and a source of pride for the community that are important factors for joining the processes that generate change in the communities, and of course will reduce waste and garbage in the public space.



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AEJI initiatives for advance public participation, gender equality – in framework of sustainable development projects for “Green Vision of the Arab Localities in Israel” | AEJI’s photos©.

