



ITEM 9 Thematic discussion on Violence against Indigenous Women

Bedouin women are an essential pillar of the Naqab's Bedouin communitarian social fabric, as well as one of the most vulnerable groups that live in poverty in the State of Israel. They develop simultaneous roles within their communities as mothers, caregivers, housekeepers and a small group of them, as land rights defenders for their children's future and wellbeing.

As women of an ethnic minority, they are subject to intersectional oppression structures which push them to poverty, unemployment or employment at low wages and unfit conditions.

Out of 43,283 Bedouin women from the recognized localities, only 14,8% were employed in 2019 in the main southern city of Israel, Be'er Sheva. After two years of the global pandemic, that number even decreased to 13,4%. 86% of Bedouin women are excluded from the labour force (Research and Information Center of the Knesset, 2022).

The status of Bedouin women in the employment market is marginal even compared to Bedouin men or other Arab women in Israel. Women living in unrecognized localities are even more neglected in terms of employment, education and opportunities of growth due to the lack of infrastructure and basic services that hinder their capacity to thrive and create an additional burden added to their responsibilities in the household, caregiving tasks and lack of mobility due to the absence of transportation means to workplaces in townships or cities.

Infant mortality rates are significantly higher among the Naqab's Bedouin residents compared to the rest of the country's Arabs, and the Jewish population living in the south. As of 2019, infant mortality rate was 9 deaths per 1,000 births compared to 5/1,000 among Arabs and 4,5/1,000 among Jewish living in the south. This reflects the impoverished conditions that Bedouin women live in and the lack of health services which include 5 clinics in the unrecognized localities.

Only 16 daycares in 7 localities are operating while for a population of 200,000 people and 7 other daycares are complete but stand idle due to obstacles that delay their opening and their occupancy.

Subsidized and supervised frameworks for early age children can serve as a significant tool for narrowing the social and economic gaps in Israel. It is therefore crucial to ensure that such daycares be opened in all the Bedouin locations in the Negev, that they be subsidized according to the needs of the Bedouin community, and address the ongoing discrimination of this community and mainly women that make part of it.