



معهد مواطن للديمقراطية وحقوق الإنسان  
Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights

## Muwatin's Twenty Second Annual Conference

“The Complex Challenges Facing Palestinian Universities: Is there a Way Out?”

Hall 243 - The Institute of Law Annex Building - Birzeit University

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016

### The Program

#### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2016

9:15

Registration

10:00

Opening Remarks

*Address by The President of Birzeit University*

*Address by H. E. The Minister of Higher Education*

*Address by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Muwatin, the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy*

*Address by the General Director of Muwatin, the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy*

*Address by the Director of the Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights*

#### 11:00 1<sup>st</sup> session Higher Education: Continuity or a New Beginning? Chair: Asem Khalil

**Marwan Awartani** Higher education: Revising Tacit Assumptions

**Salah Al-Zarou Tamimi** The Problematic Relationship Between Political Authority and Higher Education in the Arab World

**Sari Nusseibeh** The University: Another Brick in the Wall?

#### 12:30 Lunch

#### 14:00 2<sup>nd</sup> session What Does Higher Education in Palestine Aspire To? Chair: Nidal Sabri

**Nabeel Kassis** How Can Universities Attend to National Needs and Achieve a Degree of Universality at the Same Time?

**Ali Jarbawi** Some Obstacles Facing Higher Education and Universities in Palestine

**Said Zidani** Teaching Universities in the First Place

#### 15:30 Break

#### 15:45 3<sup>rd</sup> session Self-Imposed Constraints in Higher Education Chair: Hada Aryan

**Hani Masri** The Perception of Palestinian Political Elites of the Role of Universities

**Sa'ida Afouna** Commercialization of Higher Education

**Abaher Sakka** An Assessment of the State of the Social Sciences at Palestinian Universities

## Saturday 1 October 2016

### 9:00 4<sup>th</sup> Session Universities' Economy and the National Economy Chair: Shireen Al-Basha

- Samia Butmeh** Neoliberal Policies and Their Impact on Higher Education in Palestine
- Ibrahim Barham** Enhanced Competitiveness of Universities : a Key Driver for Private Sector Empowerment
- Abdul-Rahman Tamimi** The Need to Develop Thought Patterns as a Requisite to Producing Research that Meets Societal Needs

### 10 Break

### 10:45 5<sup>th</sup> session Higher Education Under Occupation Chair: Rana Barakat

- Mazen Qumsiyeh** Developing Science, Research and Education in Palestine
- Anan Al-Atireh** The Patriotic Component of Birzeit University and the National Societal Role of the Student Movement
- Ghada Madbouh & Lourdes Habash** Palestinian Education Under Occupation: Failure or Success?

### 12:15 Lunch

### 13:15 6<sup>th</sup> session Regulatory Frameworks of Higher Education Chair: Lourdes Habash

- Ramzi Rihan** Palestinian Higher Education in Context
- Hisham Kuhail** How do Regulatory Frameworks Reflect Societal Vision of Higher Education?
- Mirvat Bulbul** Whose Responsibility is Quality Assurance in Higher Education?

### 14:45 Break

### 15:00 7<sup>th</sup> session Higher Education and Nation Building Chair: Mudar Kassis

- Mamdouh Al-Aker** What Does Civil Society Expect From Universities?
- Talal Shahwan** Prospects for Developing the Research Component at Palestinian Universities
- George Giacaman** Can Universities Survive the "War" Being Waged Against Them?