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A Manual for Cultural Rights

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A Manual for Cultural Rights

We provide this manual as part of our contribution as a human-rights institution in developing the societal discourse in education about human rights. This manual is released as part of an educational societal project aiming at creating pieces of literature that would contribute to education on human values protecting individuals and groups all over the world. Our society is experiencing serious challenges for obtaining all individual and collective rights, such as political, economic and social rights, in addition to cultural rights, which have been marginalized due to the absence of basic rights.

We provide this manual to the educational and social staffs. The manual includes local pieces of literature by author Salman Natour; an analysis by the advocacy staff at the Mossawa Center about the policy of funding cultural institutions; the advocacy manual that was developed by Al-Rowwad institution; global pieces of literature by the UNESCO member states, as well as Arabic pieces of literature with linguistic rights.

International institutions such as the UN have ignored the right of culture, and started developing pieces of literature in this field throughout the past decades. In this manual, we present some international conventions in the field of cultural rights, in addition to some articles about language and culture in the Arab region. We chose to present the subject of the Amazigh languages, and their status in the Arab Maghreb states, as a model for creating a dialogue about the status of culture and language in the Arab states.

We hope that teachers, youth workers, school pupils and college students will make use of this manual in order to internalize the significance of culture and the significance of spreading its various forms. The cultural production has a major significance, while spreading culture involves numerous responsibilities taken by institutions that produce cultures, in addition to the local authorities, private associations, private sector and governments, as well as the role of international institutions. Under the discriminatory policy suffered by our society on the individual and collective levels, the private institutions, culture producers and political parties took responsibilities for supporting, producing and distributing culture as part of resisting and challenging the policy of the government. These institutions deserve recognition for their work, and a creator deserves all the support for its creativity, despite the circumstances that attempt to marginalize cultural creativity.

The manual is released in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, a German political foundation that promotes dialogue between people and values of a just and democratic society. This release is a significant contribution in the framework of the project "Culture, Rights and Spaces", which has been developed by the Mossawa Center, in collaboration with Al-Rowwad institution (A'aida camp), and Al-Mashghal (The Factory) (Haifa), with the purpose of

empowering the Palestinian cultural scene through the support provided by the EU. Culture is not limited to production and space, for it is our duty to preserve, develop and obtain it. We thank everyone who has contributed to developing this manual and allowed us to publish articles they had written. We hope that everyone reviewing this manual will work on developing, widening and using it.

JafarFarah

Director of Mossawa Center