

On the Frontlines: Insights into the State of Protection in 2021

The Global Protection Cluster's End of Year Event

8 December 2021

Speaker Profile: Nada, Palestinian National Children's Council, occupied Palestinian territory



“Like all children, we are innocence, beautiful, pure, and full of hope. We are like the birds that love to fly in the sky freely. However, we need protection, love, safety, freedom, caring, good education, and a safe place to play like all children around the world.” – Nada

*Drawing by Tala, 17 years old, from Nablus, 2020. Collected by Defense for Children International – Palestine. From the artist: “It’s my right to live in a country that I would be safe in.”

Speaker & Organizational Profile:

Nada is 14 years old and from Rafah, occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). She is second vice-president of the Palestinian National Children's Council and an outspoken advocate for the rights of children in oPt. The Children's Council is a group established and supported by Save the Children International in partnership with the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#).

As part of their engagement with the National Children's Council, these child leaders and advocates have received training on a number of issues relating to children's rights, including general concepts of human rights, monitoring and documentation of child rights violations, and they have participated in workshops on effective communication skills and public speaking, advocacy and leadership. Additionally, members of the Children's Council have participated in several accountability sessions with duty bearers including representatives from various ministries, including Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Labour, and Juvenile Justice.

Protection Risks in Occupied Palestinian Territory:

The conflict in oPt, defined by the occupation and recurring spikes in violence, has resulted in a political and economic crisis with devastating humanitarian implications for children and their families. Out of a population of 4.8 million people in oPt, nearly half, are children of which [most need humanitarian assistance](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated challenges faced by Palestinians and their children in different communities, adversely affecting their ability to withstand the pandemic and leaving them more vulnerable to poverty, unemployment and health risks while their very basic needs go unmet.

Children face multiple challenges to their rights, with over [90% of Palestinian children say they experience violence](#) at home or in their schools and rates of [child arrest and detention](#), including administrative detention, continue to rise.