

NEWS/SOCIETY

West Bank women get first radio station

Jun 20, 2010 at 14:42

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A Palestinian woman leafs through a booklet handed out by Palestinian youths during a house-to-house campaign to combat Israeli settlement products in the West Bank city of Ramallah on May 18 2010. Photograph: AFP

RAMALLAH - Entrepreneurs in the West Bank on Sunday launched the first-ever Palestinian radio station devoted to women.

The new Arabic station, Nisaa (Women) 96 FM, will be run by men and women and aimed at a broad demographic, with programming focused on social issues as well as music and call-in shows with experts.

"The broadcasts will focus on women's issues, but they will also target men in order to influence them for the benefit of women," Maysoun Odeh Gangat, the station's founder, told reporters in Ramallah at the formal launch.

Palestinian women's affairs minister Rabiha Diab, who also attended the launch, said the station would shed light on important social issues, including violence against women.

"This is good news for Palestinian society and for Palestinian women everywhere, that there will be a radio station concerned with women and discussing changes in the prevailing cultural pattern," she said.

The private station has received aid from the Smiling Children Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Switzerland and Britain.

Women enjoy mostly equal rights across the Palestinian territories despite the patriarchal nature of traditional Arab society.

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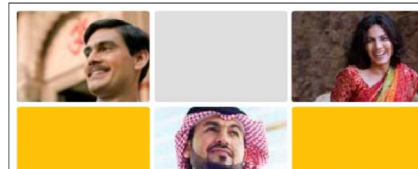


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