



Minister Ute Erdsiek-Rave and delegation member Mahmud Nawaja

The challenges in politics are similar for women in Germany and Palestine. It is true that in the last few years and decades, there have been some achievements in Germany towards achieving equality between men and women. But it is too early to talk about absolute equality of opportunities. In Palestine too, one of the most advanced Arab countries, there can be no talk of real equality between the sexes when it comes to women's involvement in politics and public life.

In order to discuss these challenges, six politically active women and men from Palestine, led by the Palestinian Minister for Women and Tourism, Dr. Khulud Daibes Abu Daye, were hosted on visits to Berlin and Schleswig-Holstein in early June. They talked on both a Federal and State level how through legislation and active participation, efforts can be made to bring a change in mindsets, moving away from clichés about roles and toward the equality of men and women.

At the invitation of the Schleswig-Holstein Minister for Education and Women's Affairs, Ute Erdsiek-Rave, the delegation participated in the ceremony marking the twentieth anniversary of the existence of the Women's Affairs Ministry in Kiel. Last year when the minister visited the Palestinian Territories on a consultative mission, she was able to experience the reality of life for Palestinian women at first hand. Particularly because of the Israeli occupation and the concomitant bad economic situation, but also as a result of traditional role expectations, Palestinian women are still marginalized in society. Women can participate in politics and society, but there are many obstacles that have to be overcome on the path to this goal. On both a political and a social level as well, women in the Palestinian Territories can benefit from the experiences of women in Germany in their fight for equal rights.



The delegation of Minister Ute Erdsiek-Rave in Kiel