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"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person"

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Committed to building peace through the implementation of activities that promote, inter alia, human rights and taking into account the results of research in social sciences for the benefit of public policies for economic, social and cultural development, the entire Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO hopes that the values held by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be reaffirmed everywhere throughout this new year.

With all our hearts, **we hope that dialogue prevails over violence** and we must confess our sorrow, in these early days of 2009, as we share the "consternation" of the UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon regarding the intolerable attacks faced by people of **Gaza (Palestinian National Authority)**.

Besides the success of the [International Conference on Human Security in the Arab States](#) held last December in **Cairo (Egypt)**, **this first New Year information bulletin should be the occasion to announce the holding of an important event: a meeting on the Programme "Civil Societies in Dialogue: Israel / Palestine"**, which should have been held on 19 and 20 January 2009, in **Ramallah**, on the sidelines of the Steering Committee of the [Palestinian Women's Resource Centre \(PWRC\)](#).

The first institution of its kind to be established in January 2006 at the initiative of the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, this Centre for Research and Documentation for Palestinian Women constitutes a substantive support for researchers, academics, students and governmental and non-governmental organizations, working on women's issues in the **Middle East**.

Encouraging the involvement of networks of women in peacebuilding and reconstruction of countries emerging from conflict, it is now used as a model at the international level, stimulating the wish to create [an institution of the same type in the African Great Lakes region](#).

While hundreds of thousands of men, women and children are trying to survive amid the ruins of **Gaza**, we would only make one wish for 2009: that everyone recalls **Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** which states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person".

- For more information: [UNESCO Programme for the involvement of women in consolidating peace and the reconstruction of post-conflict countries](#).

Events related to UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme in January 2009:

- **21-22 January:** International Regional UNESCO Conference: "Methodological and Methodical Issues in Bioethics Today." Prešov, **Slovakia**.
- **26-28 January:** Assisting Bioethics Committees (ABC) Session Training on Working Methods. Lomé, **Togo**.
- **26-27 January:** 2nd International Meeting of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics: "Human Dignity as a Basis of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights." Barcelona, **Spain**.

- **29-31 January:** Assisting Bioethics Committees (ABC) Session Training on Working Methods. Accra, **Ghana**.

For more detailed information: www.unesco.org/shs/agenda

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